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Director Approval \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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|  <p><b>UCSF</b><br/>Medical Center<br/><b>Clinical Laboratories</b></p> | <p><b>Point of Care<br/>Testing</b></p> |
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## 10% POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE PREPARATION

### PURPOSE:

For direct examination of all patient material except cerebrospinal fluid, blood and bone marrow for fungal element.

### PRINCIPLE:

The potassium hydroxide is a clearing agent which makes the fungi more visible in tissue body fluids or body secretion. Heating hastens this action.

### SCOPE:

The procedure is performed in the Hospital and Ambulatory settings by Medical Doctors and Nurse Practitioners who have been trained and maintain annual competency in this procedure.

### PERSONNEL:

- Licensed Medical Doctors
- Licensed Nurse Practitioners

### REAGENTS & SUPPLIES:

- A. 10% KOH
- B. Non-frosted glass slides
- C. Cover slips
- D. Gloves
- E. Microscope with 10x and 40x objectives

### SPECIMEN:

Specimens not tested immediately (by the person collecting the specimen) are labeled with two forms of patient identification.

**QUALITY CONTROL:**

KOH should be clear.

**PROCEDURE:**

A. A small portion of the material to be examined is placed in a drop of the potassium hydroxide on a clean slide and covered with a thin cover slip.

B. Examine under both low and high power.

C. Report any yeast, pseudohyphae, or hyphae.

1. Indicate budding and septation if possible.

D. Result reporting: Report results as yeast, pseudohyphae or hyphae present or "Negative for fungal elements" in patient chart, along with source of sample, date/time of examination and name of examiner.

**References:**

Henry JB (ed.), *Clinical Diagnosis and Management by Laboratory Methods*, 20<sup>th</sup> edition, W.B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia, PA 2001.