



Accredited to  
ISO 15189:2022

# Joint Fluid

## Synonyms

Joint aspirate

## Clinical Indication

Septic arthritis

Please give detailed clinical information, including date of onset and any current or intended antibiotic therapy

## Part of Profile / See Also

**Microscopy** for organisms & WBCs  
**WBC count** for Southend Trust only (not performed if sample clotted [or heavily blood stained](#)).  
**WBC semi quantitative** (i.e., +/-, +, ++, +++) estimation for BTUH samples or if sample clotted [or heavily blood stained](#)  
**WBC differential** if cells are  $\geq ++$  or  $\geq 50$  wbc/cmm

Requests for crystals will be referred to Cytology (a separate sample is desirable [to be](#) sent directly to Cytology)  
Crystals will be performed on all Basildon Trust samples.  
Crystals will be by request only on Southend Trust samples [or if seen on microscopy](#).

**Culture** for aerobic and anaerobic organisms.

## Request Form

Order comms request i.e., ICE or Medway or clearly handwritten Microbiology [request](#) forms where order comms not available

## Availability / Frequency of Analysis

During working day or out of hours as specified below.

For urgent requests, please contact laboratory 01268 968285

Out of hours, please contact on call Microbiology lab staff via switchboard

**Basildon requests will only be accepted up to 22:00hrs.**

## Turnaround Time

**Microscopy:** Same day.

**Culture:** 5 days

[For enrichment of samples i.e.](#), where blood culture bottles are submitted, these joint fluids are incubated for 14 days followed by terminal sub therefore may be subject to a prolonged TAT for a final negative report.

## Patient Preparation

### Sample Requirements

Refrigerate sample in universal if there is to be a delay in delivery to the laboratory.

Blood culture bottles NOT to be refrigerated- [bottles can be loaded onto the FX at the ESL](#).

### Specimen Type

Joint Fluid

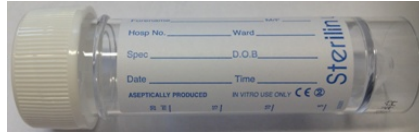
### Volume

20 ml - Minimum of 1 ml.

Blood culture bottle - fill according to volume specified on bottle

## Container

White capped sterile universal - CE marked



Blood culture bottle sets inoculated directly at point of collection may be submitted in addition to the universal container.



### Reference Range & Units

### Interferences

### Interpretation & Clinical Decision Value (if applicable)

### References

### Test code

### Lab Handling

Positive culture results will be reported with antibiotic susceptibilities where appropriate.

[Microscopy results will be phoned to the requestor out of hours.](#)

JOIF

Processed on receipt.