TML/MSH Microbiology Department Policy & Procedure Manual	**Policy # MI\STER\12\v01**	Page 1 of 1
Section: **Sterility Testing Manual**	Subject Title: **Hemodialysis Water Sterility Testing**	
Issued by: **LABORATORY MANAGER**	Original Date: July 2, 2003	
Approved by: Laboratory Director	Revision Date:	

HEMODIALYSIS WATER STERILITY

I. Introduction

Water samples from hemodialysis machines are submitted for colony count to check for sterility.

II. Specimen Collection and Transport

1. Collect a minimum of 10 mL of water aseptically into a sterile container large enough to hold the entire sample with ample of air space to allow for mixing. Avoid any splashing.
2. Deliver the sample to the Microbiology Lab. immediately or refrigerate the sample at 4 - 6^{o}C and deliver it to the Microbiology Lab within 24 hours of collection.

III. Processing of Specimens

1. Note the collection time of the sample.
2. Process the sample within 30 minutes of collection or refrigerate for up to 24 hours of collection.
3. Vortex sample for 10 seconds.
4. Inoculate 1 mL of sample onto a BHI Agar plate and spread the inoculum over the entire agar surface.
5. Incubate the BHI plate at 35^{o}C x 48 hrs
6. Remove the plate from the incubator after 48 hours of incubation.
7. Count and record the number of colonies on the entire agar surface.

IV. Reporting

Negative Report: "No Growth"
Positive Report: Report the number of colonies recorded as “x CFU/mL”