

Appendix 5: Details of modified Maki roll and microbiological analysis of CVC tips

The terminal four centimetres of catheters were rolled 5 times across the surface of a horse blood agar plate (Oxoid,UK) before being returned to the sterile container. Ten ml of fastidious anaerobe broth (Oxoid UK) was added to the container. Following incubation at 37°C for 18 to 24 hours, the plates were examined for growth; and any colonies counted, with isolate identification performed as required. Sensitivity tests were performed on isolates considered to be pathogenic regardless of number of colonies, and on other organisms if present at ≥ 15 colonies. In the event of no growth on the rolled plate, the broth was further investigated to detect potential intra-luminal colonisation. In these cases the broth was subcultured to Blood agar, CLED agar (Oxoid,UK) and Fastidious Anaerobe Agar with Neomycin (Oxoid,UK). These plates were incubated at 37°C for 18 to 24 hours. Blood agar and CLED agar were incubated in 5% CO₂ and the anaerobic neomycin agar plate was incubated under anaerobic conditions. Following incubation the plates were examined for growth and isolates processed as before and reported as being present from subculture. Isolates from subculture only would have been present either in very small numbers on the external surface or would have been present on the internal surface of the catheter.