Normally Sterile Sites: Invasive Bacterial Diseases

The following list is provided to assist you in determining if a specimen was obtained from a normally sterile site (and exceptions) in order to submit clinical isolates to the state lab.

A normally sterile site is defined as:

- Blood
- cerebrospinal fluid (CSF)
- pleural fluid
  - chest fluid
  - thoracentesis fluid
- peritoneal fluid
  - abdominal fluid
  - ascites
- pericardial fluid
- bone
  - bone marrow
- joint fluid
  - synovial fluid
  - fluid, needle aspirate, or culture of any specific joint:
    - knee
    - ankle
    - elbow
    - hip
    - wrist
- internal body sites
  - specimen obtained from surgery or aspirate from one of the following:
    - lymph node
    - brain
    - heart
    - liver
    - spleen
    - vitreous fluid
    - kidney
    - pancreas
    - ovary
    - vascular tissue

Exceptions:

- **Group A Streptococcus** if the source is:
  - Muscle
    - tissue or biopsy that is surgically obtained
    - **any** site (even non-sterile sites) in a case of toxic shock syndrome (TSS) or necrotizing fasciitis (NF).
  - **Group B Streptococcus** if fetal death occurs:
    - placenta or amniotic fluid