



LAB ALERT

Ryan H. Livengood, M.D., Laboratory Medical Director

RL

Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

New Test: BCID2 PCR Blood Culture Panel

Facility: BMC

Traditional blood culture pathogen identification involves incubation of blood culture bottles on a continuous monitoring system. Once bottles “flag” positive (average 11.5 hours), gram stains are interpreted, and culture plates are set up and incubated for an additional 18-24 hours to grow the pathogen. Final identification and antibiotic resistance patterns, through Vitek instrumentation, are typically available after another 18-24 hours.

The BioFire BCID2 multiplex PCR panel consists of 43 total targets and can identify most common gram positive, gram negative, and yeast pathogens in blood as well as their genotypic resistance markers within approximately 1 hour (after first flagging positive on the continuous monitoring system). The BCID2 panel is a complementary, supplemental test that is employed on positive blood culture bottles simultaneously with gram staining and traditional culture plates. The addition is meant to improve overall time to Pharmacy intervention and optimization of therapy, decrease length of stay, and decrease overall cost.

The BCID2 panel does not replace phenotypic identification and susceptibility testing but provides actionable information up to 48 hours earlier in the course of treatment. BCID2 will be used on positive blood cultures from inpatients and ED/Obs patients and is not a separately orderable test.

More information will be provided during an upcoming Grand Rounds presentation on November 17, 2025 at BMC. Detailed lab policy is available in PolicyTech for reference: [BMC LAB-MM 204: BioFire Blood Culture Identification 2 Panel \(BCID2\) Assay v.1](#)

*For questions call the BMC Lab at 304-264-1212, option #7

Effective Date: October 13, 2025