

NHS PQAC Advice Note

Universal Operator Broth Kits

Issues with 100ml mini-bags of Tryptone Soya Broth



Introduction

The Universal Operator Broth Kit is supplied by Shield Medicare Ltd.

Because of difficulties in sourcing mini-bags with a long shelf-life, the company is seeking an alternative supplier for the 100ml tryptic soy broth in a bag.

As an interim measure, Shield is using 100ml EVA bags of tryptic soy broth from Cherwell Laboratories *Redipor*® *Prepared Media* range.

An alternative is being evaluated, and both Shield Medicare Ltd and the NHS PQAC are currently waiting for the validation data for this product to be provided by the manufacturer.

Action

All users of the Universal Operator Broth Kit should be aware that the substitute 100ml bags of broth obtained from Cherwell Laboratories are supplied with a non-sterile overwrap.

Additionally users should note that these bags have a maximum 3-month-life. As a result Shield Medicare Ltd is only assembling kits on demand, they are not holding stock. The company will prepare a batch of kits once sufficient orders have been received for a full batch run. **In reality this means that as little as one month shelf life may actually be available to the end user.** Users will need to take this into account when receiving kits, and ensure they are used within the shelf life of the short dated product.

Please also note that kits should be used at least two weeks before the expiry date so that the broth test would not be invalidated by the bags expiring during the incubation period.

In taking appropriate action, it is recommended that the following check list be followed.

- 1 Once removed from its overwrap the 100ml TSB bag should be wiped and sprayed with sterile 70% alcohol prior to transfer to a grade A zone or surface.
- 2 Carefully plan the date for carrying out the operator broth test and check delivery date and expiry before placing the order.
- 3 Consider completing a process validation to re-qualify staff if a universal operator broth test kit is not available.

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