

BD BACTEC™ Blood Culture System

You Can Afford Better Patient Care

DRG Reimbursements are Critical

The BACTEC™ system can have a positive financial impact on DRG reimbursements.

The BACTEC 9000 series blood culturing instruments used with media containing patented resins have shown to have higher rates of organism recovery. These higher rates allow for proper DRG coding of septicemia instead of fever of unknown origin.



Helping all people
live healthy lives

Financial Impact: You Can Afford Better Patient Care

The BD BACTEC™ 9000 series instruments used with patented resin-containing media have shown to have higher rates of organism recovery.¹ Higher rates of recovery can allow for proper diagnosis, treatment and Diagnostic Related Groups (DRG) coding of septicemia instead of fever of unknown origin or other lower paying alternatives which do not cover the costs of optimal patient care.

A positive blood culture is one of several clinical indicators for sepsis and can help validate a sepsis diagnosis. However, if a patient has sepsis but the clinical case cannot be made due to lack of evidence, the discharge diagnosis may be for a lower paying alternative.

The Base Rate payment for septicemia—DRG 416 is \$7,681. Table 1 shows the base rate payments for possible alternatives if a sepsis diagnosis cannot be proven due to lack of evidence:



DRG Code	DRG Description	Base Rate Payment	Difference to DRG 416
DRG 420	Fever of Unknown Origin	\$2,947	\$4,700
DRG 90	Simple Pneumonia w/o CC	\$2,966	\$4,700
DRG 321	UTI w/o CC	\$2,743	\$4,900
DRG 208	Cholecystitis w/o CC	\$3,185	\$4,500

Table 1

Table 2 shows the increase in DRG 416 (Septicemia age >17) and DRG 417 (Septicemia age 0-17) charges after switching to the BACTEC™ blood culture system at the Meridian Health Care System.¹



Hospital	12 Months Prior to BACTEC	Initial 12 Months of BACTEC	Variance
A	\$1,313,365	\$2,154,701	\$841,336
B	\$1,455,775	\$1,930,891	\$475,116
C	\$936,812	\$1,368,698	\$431,886
Total			\$1,748,338

Table 2

“In conclusion, selection of the BACTEC 9240 together with the Plus/Lytic media combination was associated with increased positivity rates, significantly more septicemia DRG codings and a substantial increase in monies reimbursed to the system.”

— Whittier, et al ASM 2003 poster.



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1. Whittier, et al ASM 2003 poster.