

**Lee Health Pharmacists Author Study on New Test  
Leading to Faster Therapy, Reduced Costs**

(Fort Myers, Fla. – March 28, 2018) – In a study published today, authors from Lee Health demonstrated that utilizing T2Dx diagnostic technology improved care for patients suspected of sepsis and reduced costs. Authored by Lee Health pharmacists Megan Patch, Pharm.D, Emily Weisz, Pharm.D, and Sandy Estrada, Pharm. D, the study was published in the *Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy*. The study found that patients suspected of a *candida* infection that were tested on the new technology received targeted therapy in only six hours compared to conventional testing practices that took 28 hours – more than 4.5 times faster. Lee Health was the first health system in Florida to adopt the T2Dx Instrument and the T2Candida® Panel, which detects *candida*, one of the deadliest sepsis-causing infections.

By using the new instrument, Lee Health clinicians were able to reduce empiric antifungal therapy for patients that did not have a *candida* infection, which led to savings in pharmacy costs. Due to the more targeted use of antifungals, the average duration of therapy was reduced by four days, discontinued after a single dose or avoided altogether in 58.4% of patients.

“This data demonstrates that innovation at Lee Health is leading to improved care for our patients and also reducing costs,” said John Armitstead, Lee Health System Director Pharmacy. “The testing is helping to get our patients suspected of sepsis on the right therapy faster.”

The new technology provides species-specific results in three to five hours without a blood culture, compared to two to six or more days for blood culture-reliant testing. In addition, it detects over 90% of infections, while blood culture misses approximately half of *candida* infections.

**About Lee Health**

*Since the opening of the first hospital in 1916, Lee Health has been a health care leader in Southwest Florida, constantly evolving to meet the needs of the community. A non-profit, integrated health care services organization, Lee Health is committed to the well-being of every individual served, focused on healthy living and maintaining good health. Staffed by caring people, inspiring health, services are conveniently located throughout the community in four acute care hospitals, two specialty hospitals, outpatient centers, walk-in medical centers, primary care and specialty physician practices and other services across the continuum of care. Learn more at [www.LeeHealth.org](http://www.LeeHealth.org)*

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