

INTERSTITIAL CYSTITIS INFORMATION CENTER
1706 BRIERY ROAD, FARMVILLE, VA 23901
Kay Benton (c) 2002

THERE ARE NOW TWO MEDICAL LABORATORIES TO WHICH SPECIMENS FOR
BROTH CULTURES MAY BE SENT: (EFFECTIVE 8/01/02):

FAIRFAX MEDICAL LABS, INC.: Call first for info: Contact person: Tirana Shakeri, Product Mgr, 703-268-1137, M-F 8-4. They expect specimens to be sent overnight express but before you can send them a specimen, they will send you a kit explaining their procedures and what they expect of you regarding your specimen, etc. That kit is a \$25 charge to be put on a major credit card. They are then charging \$95 for the broth culture, and if anything grows, a possible another \$20 for each ID of bacteria and \$20 more for the antibiotic sensitivities to whatever bacteria they may find. The insurance Fairfax Medical will bill for now is just Trigon, Medicare and Medicaid. Nevertheless you can still get a culture done without a doctor's order but will have to sign a disclaimer (in their info packet and kit) to do so. Or you can get your doctor to order it for you and submit the order yourself (order on RX pad with doctor's name, etc.) I presume. They also have a website: www.fairfaxmedicallabs.com if you care to check them out on the Internet. FML is College of Pathology accredited (CAP) but I understand that United is not.

UNITED MEDICAL LAB IN MCLEAN, VA: 703-356-4422. (Call first for info). Address is 6720 Old McLean Village Drive, McLean, VA 22101. United has been doing broth cultures for 10-12 years with many patients splitting a specimen and sending half to Dr. F and the other half to United. Early on, when I was living in NVA, I understood that they got the same results, so I still feel they are reliable and experienced. They request that you send them a check for \$129 for the broth culture when you send in your specimen. Their cost includes the ID of bacteria and antibiotic sensitivities (at least that is what I was told just last week—July, 2002.) They want you to send in your "clean catch midstream second morning" specimen (I added that for both labs as Dr. Fugazzotto felt this to be extremely important) in a sterile container such as you would get from your doctor's office or CVS, etc. Then you make certain your container lid is on as tight as it can be, and for possible safety reasons, wrap it in tissues or other paper to protect it from leakage, etc. It needs to be sent to them Overnight Express Mail. They will send you a report and a report also to your doctor if you so request, so at least you would know that you are still on the right path with no bacterial growth or whatever or a report of bacteria ID and antibiotic sensitivities. They want you to include a copy of your driver's license, front and back, your mailing address and fax # if you have one of your own and prefer the report to be sent to you by fax. Also, need to include your phone number, a doctor's name and address (although no doctor's order is needed); then they will send the report to your doctor and also to you. If you don't want it to go to a doctor, just say so and it will come to you alone. United Medical Laboratory will submit claims to insurance companies. Of course insurance is more likely to pay for the culture if you do have a doctor's order, but we know this isn't greatly important for many IC patients who just want to KNOW the results and if they have bacteria or are continuing to suppress the bacteria. United has been subject to College of American Pathology (CAP) proficiency testing, since its establishment 20 years ago. It is the center for Medicare, Medicaid, and state of VA accredited.