1. PURPOSE

Collecting milk samples directly from the cow's teats for culturing. Samples are taken from cows with:

- High somatic cell count.
- Clinical and subclinical mammary infections.
- Fresh cows (as early as 7th milking postpartum).

2. RESPONSIBILITY

2.1 Trained casual or full-time staff and students.

3. MATERIAL

3.1 Alcohol swabs
3.2 Sterile tubes
3.3 Permanent marker
3.4 California Mastitis Test (CMT) paddle and solution
3.5 Clean nitrile or latex gloves

4. PROCEDURES

4.1 Practice aseptic techniques.
4.2 Don gloves.
4.3 Prepare the cow for milking as per SOP DC-605 Preparing cow for Milking.
4.4 Perform a California Mastitis Test (CMT) as per SOP DC-617 California Mastitis Test. Identify any quarter that is positive and record it in the Treatment Book.
4.5 Attach the tail on overhead bars so it does not interfere and contaminate your sampling.
4.6 Wipe the udder clean with a dry paper towel to remove any bedding and manure to avoid contaminating your samples.
4.7 Remove your gloves.
4.8 Identify each tube with:
   - Date (on the Q1 tube)
   - Quarter # (Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4)
   - Cow ID #
4.9 Place the sample tubes and box of alcohol swabs on paper towel on the stall floor, next to the cow (close enough for you to reach but not too close for the cow to step on it)
4.10 Don clean gloves.
4.11 Any quarters testing positive on the CMT should be sampled last to avoid contamination of the sample.
4.12 Using alcohol wipe, disinfect the tip of the teat, ensuring all teat dip is removed.
4.13 Remove the cap from the tube and hold it facing down (without the inside of the cap touching your gloves) in the same hand you will be holding the sample tube.
4.14 Hold the tube at 45° angle and fill at least ¾. Place the cap back on.
4.15 Continue the process with a new alcohol wipe for each teat.
4.16 Detach the tail once all your samples have been taken. The cow can now be milked. (refer to the corresponding SOPs):

- DC-607: Milking Procedure: General
- DC-608: Milking Fresh Cows
- DC-609: Milking pail Cow in Tie Stall
- DC-610: Milking Pail Cow in Box Stall
- DC-611: Milking Staphylococcus aureus Cows

4.17 Culture the sample as per SOP DC-616: Milk Culturing.

NOTE: If samples cannot be immediately cultured, Store in the refrigerator for up to 24 hours.

4.18 Return all materials to designated areas in the pharmacy.

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**Document Status and Revision History**

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