

Appendix 3: List of normally sterile sites

Normally sterile sites include, but are not limited to:

- Blood
- Cerebrospinal fluid
- Pleural fluid
- Peritoneal fluid
- Pericardial fluid
- Joint fluid
- Bone including bone marrow
- Internal organs; specimen obtained from surgery or aspirate from one of the following:
 - Lymph node
 - Brain
 - Heart
 - Liver
 - Spleen
 - Vitreous fluid
 - Kidney
 - Pancreas
 - Ovary
 - Vascular tissue

To meet the confirmed case definition, the growth of GAS represents invasion into the normally sterile site and not contiguous spread related to tissue degeneration (such as a deep diabetic ulcer leading to adjacent bone infection).

Lung tissue is not a normally sterile site.

The following clinical presentations are **not** considered sufficient to meet the probable case definition:

- An abscess that forms above the fascial plane (e.g., peritonsillar abscess, parapharyngeal abscess).

Interpretation of post-mortem specimens from usually sterile sites should be interpreted with caution, preferably in conjunction with a pathologist and/or clinical microbiologist.