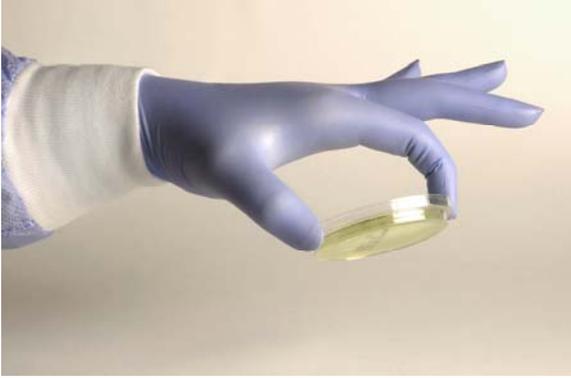


For Immediate Release:



Santa Maria, CA; July 22, 2008

HardyCHROM™ MRSA, Contact Plate is a chromogenic medium is recommended for use in the cultivation of methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) from environmental surfaces to aid in the prevention and control of MRSA infections in health care settings. Each contact plate has a specified grid molded into the bottom of the plate for enumeration of microbial colonies growing on a variety of surfaces. HardyCHROM™ MRSA, Contact Plate is not intended to diagnose MRSA infection nor to guide or monitor therapy. Various selective and differential media have been developed as an aid to the detection and identification of MRSA isolates and some media require incubation for up to 48 hours.

HardyCHROM™ MRSA, Contact Plate can detect positive results in as little as 16 to 24 hours.

MRSA strains grown in the presence of chromogenic substrates produce deep pink to magenta colonies. Cefoxitin will inhibit non-MRSA strains and additional selective agents have been added to increase the sensitivity and specificity of the medium by inhibiting gram-negative organisms, yeast and some gram-positive cocci. The prevalence of MRSA within hospital environments and community acquired (CA-MRSA) continue to increase. Infections with MRSA have been associated with high morbidity and mortality. Screening programs have been implemented in most health care settings to identify potential reservoirs so that necessary procedures can be implemented to prevent the spread of MRSA.

HardyCHROM™ MRSA medium in a contact plate can assist epidemiologists and infection control to monitor MRSA on environmental surfaces.

Hardy Diagnostics is an FDA licensed and ISO certified manufacturer of medical devices for microbiological procedures in clinical and industrial laboratories. Over 5,000 laboratories are serviced by Hardy throughout the nation. Hardy maintains six distribution warehouses to ensure timely order delivery. Over 2,600 microbiology products are manufactured at the company's headquarters in Santa Maria, CA. Over 12,000 laboratory products are offered and may be viewed on the company's website, www.HardyDiagnostics.com.

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