Quality Improvement Conference

Laboratory Risk Mitigation of Supply Chain Issues: Evaluations of Essential Agar Media

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Problem Statement

For the identification of bacterial pathogens and susceptibility testing, the microbiology laboratory is heavily reliant on commercially prepared agar media for bacterial culture.

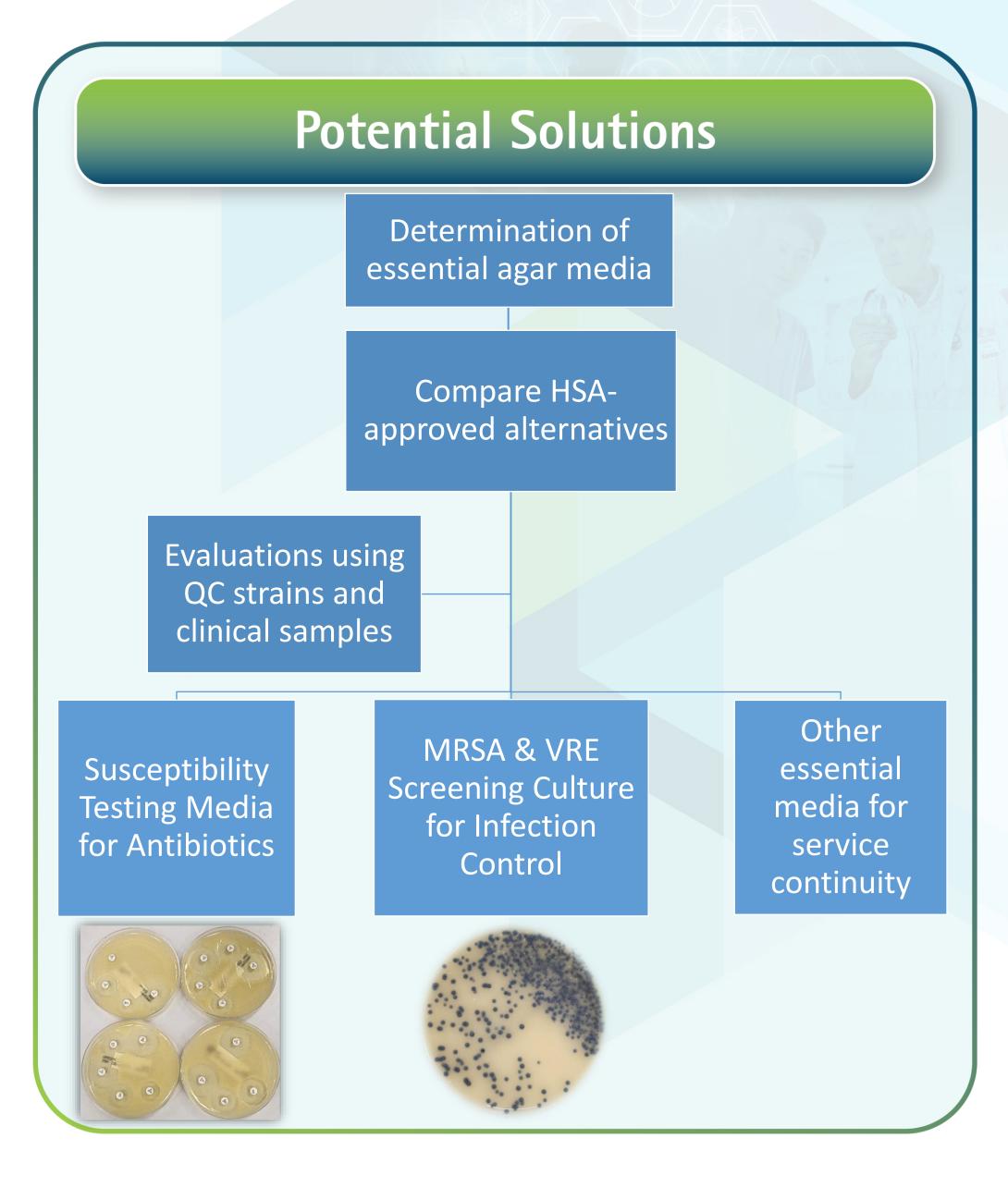
There were several issues with supply chains during the pandemic. Lessons learnt include the necessary risk mitigation to evaluate Health Sciences Authority (HSA) approved alternatives for essential agar media, in the event of unplanned shortages.

Project Aim

To identify acceptable alternatives for essential agar media to ensure the continuation of the clinical laboratory service, minimising service disruptions.

Lessons Learnt

Adherence to quality management systems is necessary for safe patient care. Pre-consideration of known risks and pre-emptive evaluations of alternatives provides options for service continuity, while meeting quality requirements for the laboratory.



Outcomes & Impacts

Unplanned shortage of current media source

Evaluated alternatives for essential media available

No service disruption

Activate back-up alternative