

Milk Quality Management Protocol: Hospital/Sick Cows

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Hospital/Sick Cow Milk Sampling Protocol:

Once a cow has been identified as sick and sent to the hospital pen, you can use the PortaSCC[®] milk test or other on-farm mastitis test to determine:

- If her somatic cell count has decreased enough to levels acceptable enough to add her milk back into the bulk tank.
 - If the treatment worked or if a spontaneous cure occurred.
1. Test sample 21 days after onset of infection. If somatic cell count is greater than or equal to 200,000 cells/mL consider taking a bacteria culture to identify the causative organism(s).
 2. Measure somatic cell counts in individual quarters to determine if the treatment worked and somatic cell levels decreased below 200,000 cells/mL or to determine if the infection spontaneously cured.
 3. Test milk to determine when the somatic cell count has decreased below 200,000 cells/mL or levels acceptable enough to add her milk back into the bulk tank.