Mastitis Treatment Protocol

Milker Detects Clinical Mastitis

Severity Score is Assigned by Milker

Mild (abnormal milk)
Moderate (abnormal milk + abnormal quarter)
Severe (systemic signs)

Do Not Culture:
Treat immediately according to protocol designed by attending veterinarian

Set up On-Farm Culture, Send Cow to Hospital Pen and Discard Milk

Immediate Rx:
Start Rx upon case detection and adjust therapy 24 hrs later based on culture result

Staph. aureus → Check SCC

New Infection:
Single quarter, 1st or 2nd lactation → consider therapy but expect only 50-60% success

Chronic Infection:
Stop Rx, segregate and confirm culture in lab. If S. aureus → Cull

Gram-positive (NOT Staph. aureus)
Gram-negative
No Growth

Strep: Continue Rx for defined duration (short or extended depending on medical history)

CNS: Stop therapy after short duration therapy is completed

Stop Rx or if indicated change to a Gram-negative spectrum IMM drug for short duration

Stop Rx, milk will usually return to normal in 4-6 days

Delayed Rx:
Wait 24 hrs for diagnosis and start Rx based on culture result

Staph. aureus → Check SCC

New Infection:
Single quarter, 1st or 2nd lactation → consider therapy but expect only 50-60% success

Chronic Infection:
Stop Rx, segregate and confirm culture in lab. If S. aureus → Cull

Gram-positive (NOT Staph. aureus)
Gram-negative
No Growth

Strep: Continue Rx for defined duration (short or extended depending on medical history)

CNS: Begin short duration antibiotic therapy

Do not treat with antibiotic (or if medical history indicates use IMM Gram-negative spectrum drug)

Do not treat with IMM unless medical history indicates therapy may be needed