Normally Sterile Sites: Invasive Bacterial Diseases

The following list is provided to assist you in determining if a specimen was obtained from a normally sterile site.

A normally sterile site is defined as:
- Blood
- Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF)
- Pleural fluid
  - Chest fluid
  - Thoracentesis fluid
- Peritoneal fluid
  - Abdominal fluid
  - Ascites
- Pericardial fluid
- Bone
  - Bone marrow
- Joint fluid
  - Synovial fluid
  - Fluid, needle aspirate, or culture of any specific joint:
    - Knee
    - Ankle
    - Elbow
    - Hip
    - Wrist
- Internal body sites
  - Specimen obtained from surgery or aspirate from one of the following:
    - Lymph node
    - Brain
    - Heart
    - Liver
    - Spleen
    - Vitreous fluid
    - Kidney
    - Pancreas
    - Ovary
    - Vascular tissue
    - Muscle

Reference: http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/dtopics/invbacterial/sterile.html