

**Answer to Example Question 1:**

Smear conversion occurred on 8/7/02, the date the third negative result was obtained. Once the third result is received, documentation is in place to meet the criteria for smear-conversion (i.e. 3 negative smear results on sputum collected on different days). Note that the date of collection is used as the date of conversion.

**Answer to Example Question 2:**

Culture conversion occurred on 9/05/02, the collection date of the second culture negative sample. It does not matter that the results were not reported until 10/28/02. Mycobacterium tuberculosis was not isolated from the sample collected on 9/5/02, thus culture conversion had occurred by this time.