

Date: 11/18/2019

RE: Important information for Group A Streptococcus Testing Changes

Effective: 12/03/2019

Sanford Laboratories is replacing NBLD0235 Rapid Strep Group A Screen (a rapid antigen test) with a new and more accurate molecular test **GROUP A STREPTOCOCCUS BY NAT NBLD0533**. Currently, testing for Group A Streptococcus begins with rapid antigen testing. If antigen testing is positive, patients can be treated immediately with antibiotics. However, because of inadequate analytical sensitivity, negative rapid antigen tests must be confirmed with a bacterial culture which takes 24 hours. The new test will take 18-24 minutes upon lab receipt but will **not** require confirmation. The price of the new Group A strep molecular assay will be \$132.

Collection Device:

A new collection device is required for the molecular assay and must be available to clinicians for collection of the pharyngeal specimen. This device will replace the dual red swab culturette.



ESwab™ (White Cap) Collection Device

Lawson 6264320

Main campus only – testing performed at main lab

NOTE: Please retain a small number of dual red swab culturettes since they will still be used for screening tests for MRSA, Group B Strep, CRE Surveillance, and VRE.

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact:

Laurie Metzger (701-323-2473, laurie.metzger@sanfordhealth.org) or Dr. Steve Mahlen (701-323-6167, Steven.Mahlen@Sanfordhealth.org).