

Laboratory Medicine Department

Memo:

Date: 12/16/13

To: **ER, Nursing Units, Outreach Customers**

From: Steven H. Wilson, M.D., Director, Department of Laboratory Medicine
Joe Holuta, Supervisor, Department of Laboratory Medicine

Subject: **Culture Swabs- Guidelines**

Please do not hesitate to call the Laboratory with any questions **724-357-7160**

1. **Red Cap Culture Swab** is to be used for the following:

- CVIRRESP**– Viral culture respiratory sources other than FLUAB
- HSV**- HSV PCR- Genital, dermal, ocular, throat, respiratory
- MRSA PCR** anterior nares
- Throat cultures** and Strep screen cultures
- Rapid Strep A** - Throat cultures screening for Strep group A
- Rapid Strep B** - Vaginal /Rectal, and Vaginal screening for Strep group B
- Urethrogenital** cultures.
- CVZV** - Varicella Zoster –Genital, dermal
- HSVVZ**- Herpes & Varicella Zoster, Genital ,dermal & Lesions
- Think **RED** for Rapid



CultureSwab- Liquid Stuart, Double Swab

Storage= RT (Room temp)
Transport= RT within 24 hrs

2. **Blue Cap Culture Swab** to be used for the following:

- CWC** - Wound specimen collection and transport for both aerobes and anaerobes.
- WET or TRICH** - ICR and OP WET PREPS
- (Blue Cap)- cannot** be used for the Rapid Strep A and B testing



CultureSwab- For wound, and skin. Amies Gel w/o Charcoal, Double Swab

Storage= RT (Room temp)
Transport= RT within 24 hrs

3. **Green Cap Culture Swab** to be used for the following:

- Urethral sampling, wound cultures as needed for ear, and eye cultures
- Nasopharyngeal cultures



CultureSwab- **Liquid Stuart**, Soft Aluminum Wire.

Storage= RT (Room temp)
Transport= RT within 24 hrs

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4. **Orange Culture swab**

- **BPS- Bordetella PCR-** Nasopharyngeal swabs



Amies Charcoal ; Single Mini-Tip swab; Straight wire shaft

Storage= RT (Room temp)
Transport= Refrig within 24hrs

5. **M4 RT Liquid Media in Conical tube**

- **FLUAB** (Effective 2-27-13)



Storage= RT (Room temp)
Transport= Refrig within 24hrs

6. **M5 Liquid Media in Conical tube**

- **UREAPLASMA**
- **MYCOPLASMA** - Ureaplasma, mycoplasma cultures.



Storage= Refrig
Transport= Refrig within 24hrs

7. **HPV** : Collection Devices Per source:

- **HPV** – Cervix/Vagina Only



Storage= RT (Room temp)
Transport= RT within 24hrs

Thin Prep Pap Test Vial
Cervical/Vaginal Collection Device

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8. CT/NG Xpert- CHAMYDIA/ GC PCR –

- **CHLGC DNA - Chlamydia / Neisseria Gonorrhoeae DNA PCR**
 - **FEMALE**
 1. **Endocervical and vaginal swabs**



Storage= RT (Room temp)
Transport= RT or **Refrig**

2. **Urine- 20-50 ml** of first stream (not clean catch). **No void 1hr prior** to specimen.
 - Sterile Cup
 - Urine-
 - Transport = **Refrig** after collection

- **MALE (Urine only)**

1. **Urine- 20-50 ml** of first stream (not clean catch). **No void 1hr prior** to specimen.
 - Sterile Cup
 - Transport= **Refrig** after collection

9. GEN-PROBE APTIMA - CHLAMYDIA- EYE SOURCE *only*

- **Order CHLPCREYE**



Storage = RT (Room temp)
Transport = RT