The right swab for the right job
Questions? Call the Altru microbiology laboratory at 780-5131

BD ESwab Transport System (Eswab)¹:
LAB503: Aerobic culture with Gram Stain²
LAB233: Anaerobic culture²
LAB885: Rapid Strep A by NAT³
LAB252: Wet prep
LAB251: KOH

BD Universal Viral Transport Medium (3 ml) and FLOQSwab:
LAB272: Influenza A/B
LAB5072: Influenza A/B & RSV
LAB5025: RSV DFA
LAB5053: Respiratory pathogen panel (high risk patients; may also use 1 ml UTM)

FLOQSwab (flocked swab) without UTM:
LAB923: B. pertussis, PCR (done at NDDOH)

BD Affirm VPIII (vaginal swab and transport tube):
LAB5022: Vaginitis screen by DNA Probe

BBL Culture Swab (double swab, red cap):
LAB885: Rapid Strep A by antigen test³
LAB252: Wet prep
LAB251: KOH
LAB503: Aerobic culture with Gram Stain¹,²
LAB234: MRSA nasal screen
LAB5027: VRE rectal screen
HERPV: Herpes simplex virus lesion PCR
LVZV: Varicella zoster virus lesion PCR

SP Brand CultureSwab (single swab, white cap):
LAB252: Wet prep
LAB251: KOH
LAB897: Aerobic culture without Gram Stain
LAB8003: NEOS (nasal smear for eosinophils)

FLOQSwab (flocked swab) without UTM:
LAB923: B. pertussis, PCR (done at NDDOH)

Aptima swabs (chlamydia/gonorrhea, CT/GC)⁴:
LAB5044: Neisseria gonorrhoeae by Nucleic Acid Test
LAB5043: Chlamydia trachomatis by Nucleic Acid Test
Endocervical or urethral swab: white label tube
Vaginal swab: orange label tube

Foot Notes:
1) eSwab is the recommended swab for bacterial culture (aerobic/anaerobic).
2) Whenever possible, send tissue or fluid instead of a swab for culture. Swabs should be avoided for fungal and AFB (Mycobacteria) cultures.
3) The swab submitted will determine which test is performed for Group A Strep. No backup culture for negative results by NAT.
4) Urine may also be tested for CT/GC; see specific collection instructions on altrulab.testcatalog.org

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