

**Screening Tests for Group B Strep for OB Patients:**

- **Group B Strep by PCR (Test # 1350)** is currently, the standard of care for preventing neonatal GBS disease is screening pregnant women at 35–37 weeks of gestation to determine their GBS colonization status.

The recommended specimen for this test is a dual swab collected from the vaginal area followed by the rectal area as explained below.

**Acceptable Specimens Collection Devices:**

- BBL's Red cap dual swab CultureSwab collection/transport container.
- Copan's Red cap dual swab collection/transport container.

**Unacceptable Specimens for Rapid PCR Testing:**

- Single swab specimens.
- Any other swab other than the one listed above as no other swabs have been validated for use

**Specimen Collection and Transport:**

To obtain adequate specimen, follow the instructions in this section closely.

1. Wipe away excessive amounts of secretion or discharge.
2. Remove both swabs from the BBL Red cap dual swab CultureSwab transport container.
3. Carefully insert both swabs into the patient's vagina. Sample secretions from the mucosa of the lower one-third part of the vagina. Rotate the swabs three times to ensure uniform sample on both swabs.
4. Using the same swabs, carefully insert both swabs approximately 2.5 cm beyond the anal sphincter, and gently rotate to sample anal crypts.
5. Place both swabs back into the transport container.
6. Label container appropriately including source as: vag/rectal.
7. If the specimens will be processed within 24 hours, storage at room temperature is acceptable. If the specimens will be tested after 24 hours, refrigerate until testing is performed. Specimens stored at 2-8°C are stable for up to six days.

Generally, if a specimen is for culture it should be refrigerated until sent to the Lab.