Memo:

Date: 12/16/13

To: ER, Nursing Units, Outreach Customers

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

   [Image of Red Cap Culture Swab - 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

   [Image of Blue Cap Culture Swab - 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

   [Image of Green Cap Culture Swab - Liquid Stuart, Soft Aluminum Wire]

   **Storage= RT (Room temp)**
   **Transport= RT within 24 hrs**
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** –
   - **CHLGCDNA** - Chlamydia / Neisseria Gonorrhoeae DNA PCR
   - **FEMALE**
     1. Endocervical and vaginal swabs

   ![Image of swab collection](image)

   **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**

   ![Image of eye collection](image)

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

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