

Date: November 7, 2019

**RE: Group A Streptococcus Testing**

Dear Valued Client:

**Effective December 3, 2019**, Sanford Laboratories is **replacing** the NBLD0235 Rapid Strep Group A Screen (a rapid antigen test) with single collection and molecular solution. Additionally, the current molecular test NBLD0417 Confirmation of Strep Group A NAD is being replaced with this new rapid and highly sensitive test.

Currently, testing for Group A Streptococcus often 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 additional testing, either bacterial culture or molecular testing. *Seventy to eighty percent of rapid antigen tests are negative*, necessitating confirmation and a longer time to final result.\*

**NEW CODE: NBLD0533 GROUP A STREPTOCOCCUS BY NAT**

- Specimen Requirement: Throat swab using the ESwab™ kit (NEW) regular flocked swab with 1 mL liquid Amies (Available through Sanford Laboratories Supplies Dept.) Send refrigerated.



- Stability: Room Temp - 48 hours    Refrigerated - 6 days    Frozen - NA
- Methodology: Xpert Xpress Strep A PCR
- Analytical time: Same day – as received
- CPT: 87651

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** If your facility performs a rapid antigen test using the dual swab in Liquid Stuart Medium or other device, and you wish to confirm negative tests with this new molecular method, you will need to collect a **separate** specimen using the new ESwab™ kit for this test.

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact Sanford Laboratories Client Support at 1-877-392-1234 or visit our website at [Laboratories.sanfordhealth.org](http://Laboratories.sanfordhealth.org).

**\*References:**

1. Felsenstein, S. et al. 2014. Molecular and clinical diagnosis of Group A Streptococcal pharyngitis in children. JCM; 52(11):3884-3889.
2. Pritt, B.S., et al. 2016. Point-counterpoint: a nucleic acid amplification test for *Streptococcus pyogenes* should replace antigen detection and culture for bacterial pharyngitis. JCM; 54(10):2413-2419.
3. Shulman, S. T., et al. 2012. Clinical practice guideline for the diagnosis and management of group A streptococcal pharyngitis: 2012 update by the Infectious Diseases Society of America. Clin Infect Dis; 55:1279-1282.