

Effective Date: November 1, 2009

Subject: Microbiology Culture Collection Media Change

Explanation of Change:

Effective November 1st, Northwest Clinical Laboratory (NWCL) is changing to the BBL CultureSwab dual swab system (blue top) from the Starplex (green top) system.

To effectively recover microorganisms, it is important to optimally collect and transport a clinical specimen.

Directions for use of the BBL dual swab blue top system:

1. Peel open the packaging.
2. Discard the colorless plastic cap.
3. Collect the specimen, **using both swabs together as one**. Both swabs are required for optimal testing.
4. Insert the swabs into the gel, and close tightly.
5. Label using two patient identifiers and send to the lab for processing.

Limitations:

1. The new BBL dual swab blue top system cannot be used for Antigen testing such as Rapid Strep Screening.
2. Please continue to use the Green Starplex culturette for Rapid Strep Screens (RSS) as well as for throat cultures.

For More Information, Contact:

Lynette R Sobotka MT(ASCP)
Microbiology Supervisor
206.368.1492
lsobotka@nwhea.org

Paul Edmonson, M.D.
Pathologist
206-368-2043