

Effective Date: 10-07-09

Subject: Beta Strep Group B, GC, Chlamydia, Genital Culture and BV Screen Submission

Explanation of Change: The following is a review of specimen sources that allow high quality testing.

Beta Strep Group B Testing:

- The CDC recommendation for Group B Strep prevention is a universal prenatal screen collected at 35-37 weeks gestation.
- The acceptable source for this test is a combined **vaginal and rectal swab**.
 - All other sources will be rejected.
- Please order either a BSB screen or write "Rule out Beta Strep Group B" on the requisition.
 - This will alert the Laboratory to add enhancement media which provides improved recovery of Group B Strep.

PCR testing for GC (Gonococci/Gonorrhea) and Chlamydia:

The acceptable specimens for testing are:

- **Endocervical**, using a BD ProbeTec Pink Culturette
- **Male Urethral**, using a BD ProbeTec Blue Culturette
- **Urine**, 1st void (not clean catch)

All other sources, including vaginal only, will be rejected for testing. Other testing options are available for sources not acceptable for PCR. Please call Microbiology at 206.368.1365 for more information.

Genital Cultures: Please be sure to indicate the **exact site** of the genital culture.

Specimens of the lower genital tract include:

- Bartholin's abscess swab/aspirate
- Cervical swabs
- Post-partum/ post-operative/ post-therapeutic abortion vaginal swabs
- Urethral swabs (Male or Female)
- Vaginal swabs
- Vulva Swabs

Specimens of the upper genital tract include:

- Endometrial biopsies and curettings
- Fallopian tube and Tubo-ovarian abscess
- Uterine swabs

Vaginal/ rectal sources are only acceptable for Group B Strep testing, and should not be submitted for routine genital culture.

BV (Bacterial vaginitis) Screen:

- This is a DNA probe test intended for use in the detection and identification of *Candida* species, *Gardnerella vaginalis* and *Trichomonas vaginalis* nucleic acid.
- The BVS test is preferred over the traditional Wet Prep since Wet Prep is sensitive to time delay.
- Please submit a **vaginal swab** from patients exhibiting symptoms of vaginitis/vaginosis.

For Further Information, Contact:

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