

May, 2019

## Group A Streptococcus Screen by PCR

As of June 5th, the Methodist Pathology Center is converting Group A Strep Screens from the rapid antigen assay to a single step real time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) assay. This change will result in higher sensitivity and eliminate the need for backup culture of negative results.

**Specimen Requirements:** The specimen requirement is an eSwab. Collect eSwab by swabbing throat and break the swab off into the vial.

Culturette swabs are not compatible with this assay. If a Culturette swab is received with a request for Strep Group A PCR, the order will be cancelled and you will need to recollect with an eSwab.

**Order:** Strep Group A PCR

**Turn Around Time:** Results available within 30 minutes from receipt in the laboratory.

**Performance:**

Sensitivity: 100%

Specificity: 94.1%

Positive Predictive Value: 84.1%

Negative Predictive Value: 100%

Follow up testing by culture for negative results is not required.

**Reporting:** Results will be reported as “DETECTED” or “NOT DETECTED”.

**Notes:** This new assay will be performed on the Methodist Hospital and Methodist Women’s Hospital campuses only. This change will not affect the PCI clinics that perform their own rapid strep tests.

Please direct any questions regarding the new assay to Dr. Tess Karre, director of microbiology, or Jennifer Krifka, Microbiology Service Leader at 4-4541.

**References:**

Cepheid Xpert® Xpress Strep A Datasheet

Cepheid Xpert® Xpress Strep A Package Insert