

Laboratory News

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Changes in Testing for Group B Streptococcus

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Effective March 11th, the Marshfield Clinic Molecular Microbiology Laboratory will begin performing Group B Streptococcus screening for pregnant women by Nucleic Acid Amplification Testing (NAAT) on the Hologic Panther instrument.

Group B Streptococcus Screening by Nucleic Acid Amplification Testing

GBS screening is currently performed using enrichment broth, followed by traditional culture and identification. The Hologic GBS assay also uses an enrichment broth, followed by identification of GBS by NAAT. This approach offers greater sensitivity than culture.

Due to the enrichment step, analytical time for screening will be 48 hours. There will be no change in collection requirements.

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Susceptibility Testing

For penicillin tolerant patients, screening will be performed without susceptibility testing (Test Code: GBSNAT).

For penicillin allergic patients, screening can be ordered with automatic reflex to susceptibility testing (Test Code: GBSNAT-RFX).

Enrichment broths ordered with GBSNAT that are GBS Positive will be held in lab for 5 days if add-on susceptibility testing is needed. However, successful recovery of GBS will be enhanced by using GBSNAT-RFX for known penicillin allergic patients.

Test Details

Test Code: GBSNAT (Group B Strep Screen by Nucleic Acid Test)

Specimen Collection

- Vaginal introitus and/or anorectum (vaginal/perianal specimens are acceptable) specimens submitted on Eswab or other Amies medium-based swab

Transport Temperature & Stability

- Room Temperature: <4 hours
- Refrigerate: 48 hours

Rejection Criteria

- Cervical, perianal, perirectal, and perineal swabs
- Dry swabs
- Leaking specimens
- Specimens older than 48 hours

Other

- **Performed:** Monday through Sunday
- **CPT Code:** 87653
- **Test Code:** GBSNAT

FOR PENICILLIN ALLERGIC PATIENTS **ONLY** ->

Test Code: GBSNAT-RFX (Group B Strep, Nucleic Acid Test w/Reflex to Susceptibility)

Specimen Collection, Transport Temperature & Stability, and Rejection Criteria

- Same as GBSNAT above

Other

- **Performed:** Monday through Sunday
 - Susceptibility results will be available 48-72 hours after positive GBSNAT result.
- **CPT Codes:**
 - 87653 (PCR Test)
 - 87077 or 87147 (ID of organism from culture)
 - 87186 or 87184 (Susceptibility testing)

Questions

Please call Marshfield Labs Customer Service at 1-800-222-5835 with questions.