

Date: February 22, 2016

Effective Date: March 14, 2016 at 8am

Title: Discontinuation of Reflex Throat Culture for Beta Strep A

Test: Rapid Strep A Molecular Testing

Explanation of change:

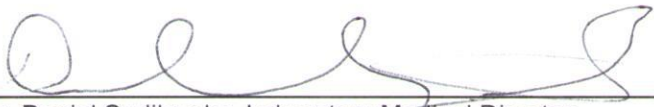
In Fall 2015, the laboratory began offering rapid molecular Alere™ i Strep A testing for Group A Streptococcus at the Main Laboratory and Ithaca & Cortland Urgent Care Centers. Negative tests automatically reflexed to a throat culture for Group A Streptococcus.

A three month study has shown zero positive reflex throat cultures for Group A Streptococcus. The increased sensitivity of the molecular testing method has successfully detected all cases of positive Group A Streptococcus, eliminating the need for a reflex throat culture and reducing cost and follow-up for our patients. The observation of increased test sensitivity and subsequent discontinuation of reflex cultures has been documented by other laboratories including our reference lab, Mayo Medical Laboratories.

The test *Throat Culture* will remain orderable for providers that do not use molecular strep screening, for patients with invalid molecular Strep A test results and/or for patients where the provider is looking for other organisms. The *Throat Culture* test looks for group A strep, arcanobacterium, yeast and/or predominating organism. Testing can be ordered as "Throat Culture".

	TEST
OLD	Rapid Strep Molecular w/ Reflex Culture
NEW	Rapid Strep Molecular (No Reflex Culture)

Please contact the Laboratory at (607)274-4474 with any questions.

 _____ Date 2/24/16

Dr. Daniel Sudilovsky, Laboratory Medical Director

 _____ Date 2-24-16

Toni Burger, Laboratory Administrative Director