

# BULLETIN

## BTECHNICAL

August 27, 2018

### eSwab

The Pathology Center will begin distributing eSwab collection kits for Microbiology specimen collection. The eSwab is a liquid-based multipurpose collection and transport system that maintains viability of organisms for up to 48 hours at room temperature.

Advantages of the eSwab collection:

- Provides better recovery of microorganisms than the current swabs
- Room temperature stability for 48 hours

Specimens are collected using the Nylon flocked swab provided in the collection kit. Collection steps are summarized in the attached flier.

You may continue to use the BBL Culture swab (double red swab) until your current supply is depleted or product is expired, whichever comes first. The eSwabs will be distributed as the supply of the current product diminishes.

eSwab will not replace all collection devices. Please refer to the following tables for the correct collection information.

<b>eSwab WILL replace the current collection device for the following tests:</b>		
<b>TEST</b>	<b>CURRENT COLLECTION METHOD</b>	<b>NEW COLLECTION METHOD</b>
Routine culture, swab	BBL Culture swab	eSwab
Group A Strep screen (including rapid strep)	BBL Culture swab	eSwab
Group B Strep screen	BBL Culture swab	eSwab
MRSA/VRE screen	BBL Culture swab	eSwab
<i>Candida</i> sp. screen	BBL Culture swab	eSwab
BV screen/wet prep	BBL Culture swab	eSwab

**eSwab WILL NOT replace the current collection device for the following tests:**

<b>TEST</b>	<b>COLLECTION METHOD</b>
Respiratory, urine, stool, tissues or body fluid cultures	See test directory for appropriate specimen requirements
AFB or fungal cultures (except <i>Candida</i> sp. screen)	See test directory for appropriate specimen requirements
Influenza/RSV PCR	Minitip swab in UTM
Pertussis/Parapertussis PCR	Minitip swab in UTM
Trichomonas PCR	Xpert TV swab collection kit or urine
CT/NG PCR	Cobas CTNG collection kit or urine
HSV PCR	Scrapings, vesicle aspirate, or swab in UTM

Please direct any questions regarding this change to Dr. Tess Karre, Director of Microbiology (4-4578), or Jennifer Krifka, Microbiology Service Leader, (4-3147).

*Methodist Health System will be replacing current collection systems for bacteria with COPAN ESwab.*



**ESwab™ Should NOT Be Used for Aspirates, Tissues or Bodily Fluids.**

## ESWAB INSTRUCTIONS

### ESWAB IS EASY TO USE:

- Perform hand hygiene and put on gloves if necessary.
- Perform positive patient identification.
- Open the peel pouch.
- Remove the swab.
- Collect the patient sample using the swab. **Avoid touching the swab applicator below the pink molded breakpoint** as this could lead to contamination and incorrect test results.
- Remove the screw cap from the tube and insert the swab **all the way to the bottom of the tube.**
- Holding the swab shaft **close to the rim of the tube**, and keeping the tube away from your face, break the applicator shaft at the pink breakpoint indication line.
- **Screw the cap on tightly to prevent leakage.**
- Dispose of the swab shaft in a regular trash receptacle.
- Apply patient identification label or write patient information on the tube label.
- Follow the standard operating procedures of transport and testing for your facility.
- Remove gloves if necessary and perform hand hygiene.

### NOTE:

The ESwab Liquid Amies fluid maintains the viability of diverse bacteria. **Do not send a dry ESwab as this will lead to unsatisfactory results.**

If the tube spills its contents prior to inserting the swab, the liquid is non-toxic. Simply put the swab into another tube before sending it to the laboratory and discard the spilled tube.

If the tube spills after insertion of a swab containing patient specimen, refer to the following infection control policy: Infectious Spill, Management for Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Plan.

If contaminated fluid splashes onto the personnel collecting the sample, treat as a blood and body fluid exposure. Refer to the following infection control policy: Post-exposure Evaluation and Follow-up for Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Plan.