Date: January 17, 2019

**Strep A and Strep C/G Molecular replacing Throat culture**

Beginning January 23, 2019, Mercy Clinical Laboratory will replace throat culture methodology with HDA (Helicase dependent amplification). The HDA assay or Strep Molecular allows for the rapid, accurate detection of Streptococcus Groups without the need for culture confirmation.

- Throat cultures will be replaced with **Strep A, C, and G Profile DNA**, reporting two results; Detected or Not Detected for Streptococcus A and Detected or Not Detected for Streptococcus C/G.
- Strep A cultures on throats will be replaced with **Strep A DNA**, reporting Detected or Not Detected for Streptococcus A.
- Strep Screen will be offered with negative results reflexed to **Strep A DNA**. Please send a dual swab for Strep Screens so reflex testing may be performed.
- We will offer a Strep A culture for rectal source only. Rectal swabs will be the only source we will accept for Strep A Cultures. All others sources will NOT be cultured.

The MCL paper test requisition is in the process of being updated. Until the new form is available, please write “Strep A” or “Strep A, C, G” on the requisition next to “Throat Culture” to indicate which test should be performed.

**Test Name:** Strep A, C, and G Profile DNA  
**Performing Laboratory:** MMC Microbiology  
**CPT:** 87651, 87798  
**Specimen Requirements:** Culturette swab or ESwab of throat  
**Stability:** 2 days room temp, 8 days refrigerated, 32 days frozen  
**Rejection Criteria:** wrong specimen type, wrong body site, stability exceeded  
**Test Methodology:** Molecular  
**Normal Range:** No Streptococcus A Detected, No Streptococcus C/G Detected  
**Client List Price:** $40.00 each CPT  
**Patient/Insurance Price:** $50.00 each CPT
Test Name: Strep A DNA  
Performing Laboratory: MMC Microbiology  
CPT: 87651  
Specimen Requirements: Culturette Swab or ESwab of throat  
Stability: 2 days room temp, 8 days refrigerated, 32 days frozen  
Rejection Criteria: wrong specimen type, wrong body site, stability exceeded  
Test Methodology: Molecular  
Normal Range: No Streptococcus A Detected  
Client List Price: $40.00  
Patient/Insurance Price: $50.00  

New Remit Address for payments

Mercy Clinical Laboratory recently implemented a new and improved billing system. The new remit address is printed at the top of your client invoice. Please notify your accounts payable department of this change.

Mercy Clinical Laboratory – Outreach PP  
PO Box 679460  
Dallas, TX 75267-9460  
Billing Customer Service phone number: 844-405-9080  

Test Orders

If you are ordering PT and PTT or Hgb and Hct, please do not order them separately. Use the combined PTT/PT orderable or the combined H&H orderable. This prevents multiple tubes being drawn and eliminates confusion in our processing department.

Thank you for choosing Mercy Clinical Laboratory.