



Des Moines Laboratory Update

Date: January 16, 2025

Discontinuation of Streptococcus Pneumoniae Antigen testing.

Effective immediately, all Trinity Health Laboratories- including MercyOne Des Moines Laboratory- have discontinued performing the laboratory test Urinary Ag *S. pneumoniae*.

Discontinuation of Urinary Ag *S. pneumoniae* was vetted through Infection Prevention & Control Affinity Group, Antimicrobial Stewardship Expert Panel, Clinical Microbiology Expert Panel, Reference Lab Expert Panel, and Lab CLG.

The low sensitivity of urine antigen tests raise the question of clinical utility - especially in acute care settings based on:

- Pre-test probability of a positive *S. pneumoniae* urinary antigen test is low (on average < 5%).
- Second, even if positive, it does not alter empiric therapy in most cases, as available regimens include activity against *S. pneumoniae*.
- Third, even if positive, there may be other pathogens contributing to CAP and premature de-escalation could lead to negative consequences like clinical relapse.
- Fourth, a negative antigen test does not rule out *S. pneumoniae*, given its low sensitivity.

In lieu of these, the continued availability of this test also consumes resources, and diagnostic stewardship supports discontinuing the availability of this test.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.