Lab Dept: **Microbiology/Virology**

**Test Name:** GROUP A STREP DNA BY PCR

### General Information

**Lab Order Codes:** GASD

**Synonyms:** Streptococcus Group A PCR; Beta strep group A PCR; Throat, group A strep only

**CPT Codes:** 87651 – Streptococcus, group A, amplified probe technique

**Test Includes:** Detection of group A strep by PCR using throat specimens from patients suspected of having streptococcal pharyngitis. This assay targets the *Streptococcus pyogenes* exotoxin B gene (speB). If other organisms are suspected, refer to Throat Culture, Routine.

### Logistics

**Test Indications:** Patients suspected of having streptococcal pharyngitis.

**Lab Testing Sections:** Molecular Diagnostics, Mpls campus only

**Phone Number:** 612-813-7103

**Test Availability:** Daily, Monday - Friday, twice per day; Saturday and Sunday, once per day

**Turnaround Time:** 8 – 24 hours

**Special Instructions:** Requisition must state specific type of specimen and date/time of collection.

### Specimen

**Specimen Type:** Throat

**Container:** Swabs with or without transport media

**Draw Volume:** 1 swab

**Processed Volume:** Same as Draw Volume

**Collection:** Throat swab
1. Depress tongue with tongue depressor.
2. Sample the posterior pharynx, tonsils, and inflamed areas with a sterile swab.
3. Place swab in transport medium.
**Transport/Storage:** Transport to the Laboratory at room temperature. If a delay is anticipated, refrigerate specimen at 4°C. Specimens are stable at room temperature for 1 day and 5 days at refrigerated temperature (2 – 8°C).

**Patient Preparation:** None

**Sample Rejection:** Specimen not submitted in appropriate transport container; improperly labeled specimen. If an unacceptable specimen is received, the patient’s caregiver will be notified and another specimen will be requested before the specimen is discarded.

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### Interpretive

**Reference Range:** Negative: group A streptococci not detected by PCR

**Critical Values:** N/A

**Limitations:** This assay does not detect other beta-hemolytic streptococci including group C or group G. If suspected, order Throat Culture, Routine. Group C and G have been associated with pharyngitis and, occasionally, acute nephritis but do not cause rheumatic fever.

**Methodology:** Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR)

**References:**