

Blanchard Valley Health System Laboratory Services

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Throat Culture Collection Procedure (LTR27587)

Last Approved By: Hughes, Douglas (2/8/2018 5:50:13 AM)

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Throat Culture Procedure

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Principle:

Throat cultures are collected with sterile cotton swabs. By touching the infected area with the sterile swab, pathogenic and normal organisms (bacteria) are collected for Microbiology to identify. The Microbiology department touched the swabs to sterile media to grow the organisms. Bacteria normally exists everywhere, therefore it is important to obtain a good specimen to insure proper identification of the pathogenic bacteria.

Patient Prep:

Avoid antibiotic therapy prior to obtaining a specimen.

Collection Container:

1. If the patients order is for a "Quick Strep" or a "Strep Screen" use a red Duo-Swab in transport media.
2. If the patients order says "Throat Culture" use a blue Aimes transport media swab.

Procedure for Collection

1. Ask the patient to open their mouth and say "AH".
2. Gently depress the tongue with a tongue depressor.
3. Guide the swab over the tongue to the posterior pharynx.
4. Gently swab the mucosa behind the uvula and between the tonsillar pillars back and forth.
5. Remove the swab without touching the tongue, uvula, or lips.

Storage and Transport

Bring to the laboratory within 24 hours.

