



AT THE FOREFRONT
UChicago
Medicine

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TO: UCH Medical Staff, Housestaff, Patient Care Centers, and Outpatient Clinics

FROM: Kathleen G. Beavis, MD, Medical Director, Clinical Microbiology and Immunology Laboratories

Scott M. Matushek, MS, M(ASCP), Laboratory Manager, Clinical Microbiology and Immunology Laboratory

RE: Group A Strep PCR

Effective March 25, 2020, the Clinical Microbiology and Immunology Laboratory will offer the Group A Strep PCR in place of the Beta Strep Culture, Throat (BSTR). The Group A Strep PCR provides greater sensitivity with a 24 hour turnaround time.

Specimen requirements and ordering information:

Test name	Epic Order Code	Specimen
Group A Strep PCR	GASPCR	Throat swab in BD swab transport

Test information and turnaround time:

The Group A Strep PCR is a DNA probe test intended for use in the detection and identification of *Streptococcus pyogenes* in throat specimens.

Testing will be performed every day. Testing is performed on the Cepheid GeneXpert instrument. Results of the Group A Strep PCR assay will be reported as Positive or Negative.

If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Bethel, Chief Technologist, Clinical Microbiology and Immunology Laboratory at 773-795-9142 or Kathleen G. Beavis, MD at 773-702-3689.