



LABORATORY UPDATE

May 4th, 2017

NEW TEST NOTIFICATION

BETA STREP B BY PCR, VAGINAL/RECTAL

Dear Physicians and Staff,

Effective May 8, 2017, Enzo Clinical Laboratory will introduce a new test method for Beta Streptococcus group B ordered as **Beta Strep B by PCR, Vaginal/Rectal**, to complement the current Culture Beta Strep B culture. The new Beta Strep B by PCR assay provides faster turnaround time and improved sensitivity and specificity due to the innovative real-time PCR technology. The differences between the current and new Beta Streptococcus B tests are summarized below:

	NEW	CURRENT
TEST NAME:	BETA STREP B BY PCR, VAGINAL/RECTAL	CULTURE, BETA STREP B, VAGINAL/RECTAL
TEST CODE:	4006	4066
REFERENCE RANGE:	Positive/Negative/Indeterminate	Positive/Negative/Indeterminate
REPORTABLE RANGE:	Positive/Negative/Indeterminate	Positive/Negative/Indeterminate
SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS:	Vaginal/Rectal swab	Vaginal/Rectal swab
TURN AROUND TIME:	2 days	3 days

The new Beta Strep B by PCR assay is a qualitative in vitro diagnostic test designed to detect Group B Streptococcus (GBS) DNA in vaginal and rectal swab specimens. Swab specimens are incubated in selective growth medium for ≥ 18 hours at 37°C, and a 15 μ l aliquot of the enrichment culture is then used for automated DNA extraction and real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) to detect a region of the *Streptococcus agalactiae* chromosome. Results from the Beta Strep B by PCR assay can be used as an aid in determining colonization status in antepartum women. Susceptibility testing will be performed and reported on positive Group B Strep tests.

We appreciate the continued opportunity to serve you and your patients and welcome any questions or concerns you may have. You can reach us at 631-755-5500 or talk to your Enzo Clinical Labs Sales and/or Service Representative for more information.

Sincerely,

Dieter Schapfel, MD
Medical Director