

<b>DATE:</b>	27 February 2023
<b>TO:</b>	North Zone Physicians, Clinicians, Clinics, and Nursing Units (excluding Grande Prairie Regional Hospital and Northern Lights Regional Health Centre)
<b>FROM:</b>	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) and DynaLIFE Medical Labs
<b>RE:</b>	<b>ESwab Liquid Based Multipurpose Collection and Transportation System for Microbiology Specimens</b>

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**PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE**

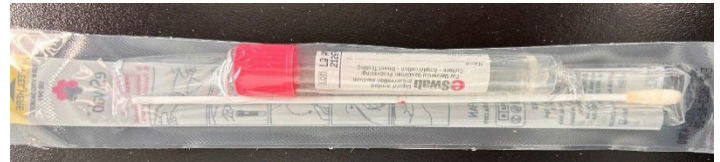
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**Key Message**

- **Effective February 27, 2023**, all acute care and community locations in the North Zone, excluding Grande Prairie Regional Hospital (GPRH) and Northern Lights Regional Health Centre (NLRH), will begin to convert the current microbiology collection and transport media (Amies Gel (magenta cap) with and without charcoal) to the **ESwab Amies Liquid-Based Multipurpose Collection and Transportation System**.



Current Amies (magenta top) to be replaced



New ESwab

**Background**

- The ESwab is appropriate for collection of most tests previously done with Amies gel swabs: e.g., routine bacterial culture, bacterial vaginosis testing, Group B Strep screening. The ESwab is a liquid-based microbiology collection system that allows for automated specimen processing. Each ESwab system is comprised of 1 mL of liquid Amies and a flocced swab. The patented flocced swab elutes the entire specimen into solution, amplifying culture and assay sensitivity and improving reproducibility of microbiological culture.

**How this will impact you**

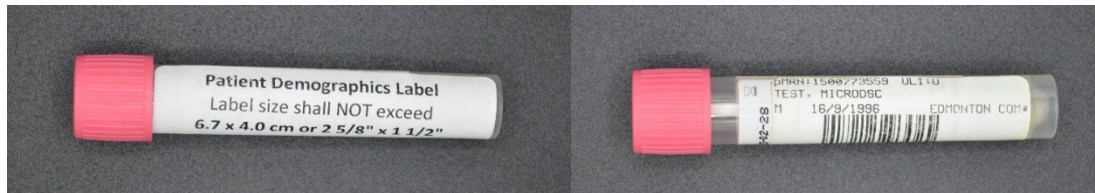
- Continue using pre-reduced anaerobic transport systems (PRAS), not ESwabs, for specimens that require anaerobic culture (including deep wound swabs, and small amounts of tissue, bone, and fluids). Collection of tissue or fluid is preferable to a swab.
- Do not use ESwabs for respiratory virus (including COVID-19) or pertussis testing. Continue to use Universal/Viral Transport Media and Regan-Lowe media, respectively.



- The chart below lists the current swab(s) in use and the new replacement ordering information for the ESwab collection and transportation system.

Current			New		
Oracle #	Description	Supplier / Supplier #	Oracle #	Description	Supplier / Supplier #
113789	SWAB TUBE COLLECTION AMIES CLEAR MAGENTA STARSWABS II 6 INCH	VWR INTERNATIONAL CA66410-103L	364899	TUBE COLLECTION 1ML LIQUID AMIES MEDIUM WITH 1 REGULAR FLOQSWABS PINK SCREW CAP ESWAB	MICRONOSTYX INC  CA480CE
158993	SWAB TUBE COLLECTION AMIES CHARCOAL BLACK STARSWABS II 6 INCH	VWR CA66410-105L			

- During the transition specimens submitted using the Amies gel collection systems will be processed until such time that existing stocks have been exhausted and replaced with the ESwab liquid Amies.
- To avoid processing delays, place the identification label no larger than 6.7 x 4.0cm vertically on the vial, directly under (and not on top of) the cap (see figure below). Barcodes, if present, should be perpendicular to the length of the tube.



**Action Required – Ordering information**

- Community: as of Feb. 27, clinics should order the new swab through the DynaLIFE Physician Supply Portal (<https://orders.dynalife.ca>).

DynaLIFE #	Description	Quantity
1S0118	ESWAB (FOR MICROBIOLOGY SAMPLES ONLY)	50 units/bag

- Acute care (hospitals, urgent care): Conversion of your current swabs will be automatically occurring on supply carts. Please work with your local CPSM Site Services staff.

**Questions/Concerns may be directed to**

- Pamela Churko, Microbiology Discipline Lead, Medical Microbiology, [Pamela.Churko@albertaprecisionlabs.ca](mailto:Pamela.Churko@albertaprecisionlabs.ca)
- DynaLIFE Materials Management Direct Line: (587) 686-3454 or [supply.order@dynalife.ca](mailto:supply.order@dynalife.ca)

**This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by**

- Dr. Michael Mengel, Medical Director, North Sector, Alberta Precision Laboratories
- Dr. Erene Farag, Medical Director, DynaLIFE Medical Laboratories