

DATE:	21 February 2023
TO:	Calgary Zone Health Care Providers, Clinic Staff, and Nursing Units
FROM:	DynaLIFE Medical Labs and Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
RE:	Replacement of Amies Swabs with ESwabs in Calgary Zone

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- Effective **February 27, 2023**, all acute care and community locations in Calgary Zone will start to replace the current Amies (red-top) swabs with ESwabs.
- Amies (red-top) swabs received by the laboratory will continue to be processed and tested until all supplies are converted to ESwabs.



Amies (red-top) swab [being replaced]

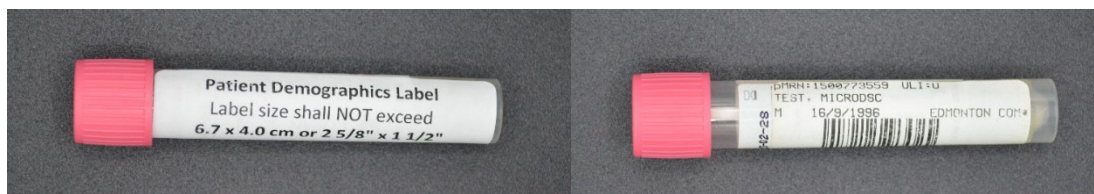
new ESwab

Background

- The ESwab is appropriate for sample collection of all tests previously done with Amies (red-top) swabs: routine bacterial culture, Group A Strep testing from throats, bacterial vaginosis testing, Group B Strep screening, etc.
- The ESwab provides better analytical sensitivity and reproducibility for microbiological stains, cultures, and other testing.

Action Required

- To use Eswab for sample collection:
 - Hold swab above the red-marked breakpoint to prevent contamination of the lower shaft with the swab tip. This segment must be kept sterile.
 - Swab the desired area.
 - Uncap the vial, insert the swab and gently break the shaft by bending it against the rim of the vial, gently rotating to complete breakage if needed. Recap.
 - Place an identification label **no larger than 6.7 x 4.0 cm** 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.
 - **Correct labelling of ESwabs prevents processing delays.**





- 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.
- **ESwab ordering information:**
 - Community: as of Feb. 27, clinics should order the new swab through the DynaLIFE Physician Supply Portal (<https://orders.dynalife.ca>). ESwabs will not be available for ordering through Cardinal Health or before that date.

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

- Acute Care (Hospitals, Urgent Care): Supply carts will be automatically restocked with the new product. Work with your site's CPSM to coordinate roll-out if required.

Previous			New		
Oracle #	Description	Supplier	Oracle #	Description	Supplier
146331	SWAB COPAN PLAIN LIQUID	THE STEVENS COMPANY 896-8140CQ	364899	TUBE COLLECTION 1ML LIQUID AMIES MEDIUM WITH 1 REGULAR FLOQSWABS PINK SCREW CAP ESWAB	MICRONOSTYX INC CA480CE

Questions/Concerns may be directed to

- Pamela Churko, Microbiology Discipline Lead, Pamela.Churko@albertaprecisionlabs.ca
- Dr. Michael Groeschel, Medical Microbiologist, DynaLIFE, michael.groeschel@dynalife.ca
- DynaLIFE Materials Management Direct Line: (587) 686-3454 or supply.order@dynalife.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by

- Dr. Dylan Pillai, Medical Director South Sector, Alberta Precision Laboratories
- Dr. Erene Farag, Medical Director, DynaLIFE Medical Laboratories