



**Date:** April 9, 2020  
**To:** Banff and Canmore Physicians; Nurse Managers, Educators, and Practitioners  
**From:** Banff Laboratory, Microbiology, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)  
**Re:** Discontinuation of UriSwab™ Collection Tubes for Urine Cultures

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

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**Key Message:**

- Effective **April 9, 2020**, UriSwab™ tubes will no longer be accepted for urine cultures.
- The BD™ Vacutainer Urine C&S Tube will now be used.
- There will be no change to any other urine collection process (i.e. urinalysis).

**Why this is Important:**

- Transition to the BD™ Vacutainer Urine C&S Tube will allow robustness of supply, increased sustainability of resources, and interoperability of specimens with laboratory equipment.
- According to a laboratory verification study, performance of the two collection systems was similar.
- The BD™ Vacutainer Urine C&S Tube is widely used across Alberta and maintains stability of bacterial populations for up to 48 hours.

**Action Required:**

- Effective April 9, 2020, discard any remaining UriSwab™ tubes.
- BD™ Vacutainer Urine C&S Tubes can be ordered through the Cardinal ordering processes.
- Please review the attached instruction sheet (MI6009) for detailed instructions on the use of the BD™ Vacutainer Urine C&S Transport Tube for all urine culture specimens (≥5 mL).
- If <5mL of urine is collected (e.g. neonate), submit the specimen in a sterile container. Refrigerate immediately and transport to the laboratory as soon as possible.

**Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:**

- Susan Blonski, MLT III, Banff Laboratory, 403-760-7222 ext. 120, [susan.blonski@aplabs.ca](mailto:susan.blonski@aplabs.ca)
- Donna Coulson, MLT III, Canmore Laboratory, 403-679-7303, [donna.coulson@aplabs.ca](mailto:donna.coulson@aplabs.ca)
- Wilson Chan, MD, Medical Microbiologist, 403-770-3338, [wilson.chan@albertaprecisionlabs.ca](mailto:wilson.chan@albertaprecisionlabs.ca)

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

Leland Baskin, MD, Associate Medical Director, South Sector