Key Message:

- Effective April 13, 2020, throat swabs submitted to rule out Group A streptococcal pharyngitis will be routinely analyzed by the GASDirect Test (by Hologic Gen-Probe, Inc.), as opposed to the current culture method.
- There is no change to the collection technique or swab (Amies red-top) for this test.
- Throat culture will only be performed in cases of penicillin allergy, treatment failure, or to exclude specific pathogens (e.g. Neisseria gonorrhoeae).

Why this is Important:

- GASDirect test is a DNA probe for Streptococcus pyogenes, and provides a quicker turnaround time than culture.
- The sensitivity of the GASDirect assay is comparable to that of throat culture (90-95%).
- The GASDirect assay does not amplify an organism for susceptibility testing, or detect other organisms other than S. pyogenes.

Action Required:

- Continue ordering and collecting Group A strep throat swabs according to the current process.
- Complete the requisition correctly, especially if culture/susceptibility testing is required.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

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This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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