

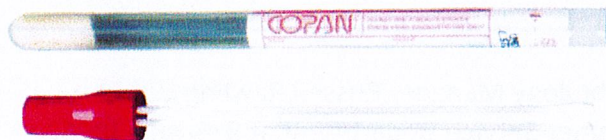


## New PCR Test for Group A Streptococci In Pharyngeal Specimens for Outreach

Effective June 7, 2021, Laboratory Alliance's Microbiology Department will implement the use of a new PCR assay that detects the nucleic acids of group A streptococci (GAS), also known as *Streptococcus pyogenes*, directly in pharyngeal specimens. This PCR test will be replacing our previously used gene amplification assay for GAS in pharyngeal specimens because it offers an improved service by providing shorter turn-around times.

Because of the near 100% sensitivity of the new PCR assay, pharyngeal specimens with negative test results need not be reflexed for additional testing. Importantly, pharyngeal specimens for GAS PCR testing must be collected and submitted to the Microbiology Department using the red-capped swab collection/transport system containing liquid Stuart's transport medium. These red-capped specimen collectors can be obtained by contacting Laboratory Alliance's Client Services at 315-461-3008.

<b>Test Name</b>	Group A Strep DNA
<b>Test Code</b>	GASM
<b>Method</b>	Real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR)
<b>Collect</b>	Throat swab collected using a red-capped swab with liquid Stuart's transport medium
<b>Storage and Transport</b>	Transport ambient or refrigerated.
<b>Stability</b>	Ambient: 2 days, Refrigerated: 6 days
<b>Unacceptable Conditions</b>	Collectors using gel transport media or dry swabs
<b>Schedule</b>	Daily
<b>CPT Code</b>	87651
<b>Billing Code</b>	3010454
<b>Reference Range</b>	Negative for GAS DNA by PCR



Please contact Microbiology Manager Russell Rawling by phone at 315-410-7060 or by email to [russellrawling@lacny.com](mailto:russellrawling@lacny.com), or Director of Microbiology Dr. Paul Granato at 315-410-7036 or [paulgranatophd@lacny.com](mailto:paulgranatophd@lacny.com) with questions about this change and new test service.



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## Red Cap Swab Specimen Collection Tips



Discard white cap after opening transport tube

Do not cut, break or remove swabs from red cap

Insert swabs firmly into transport tube so that swab tips are touching the sponge at the bottom of the tube

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For more information, email Microbiology Manager Russell Rawling at [russellrawling@lacny.com](mailto:russellrawling@lacny.com) or call our Customer Service Department at 315-461-3008.

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