

LabMed Report

A publication of:
Munson Healthcare Laboratories
Grand Traverse Pathology, PC
Physicians Diagnostic Support Service

In this issue: Group A Strep Test Communication

January 2022, Volume 1

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All Munson Healthcare Laboratories (EXCEPT Munson Healthcare Otsego Memorial*), testing throat specimens for group A streptococci are using polymerase chain reaction (PCR) technology which is much quicker than previously required culture.

Therefore, MHC Labs will no longer be performing routine throat cultures. If throat culture is felt to be potentially informative for a specific patient, infectious disease consultation is recommended.

This also means that we will no longer call positive strep A results at any facility. *Munson Healthcare Otsego Memorial continues to screen with a strep A antigen test, followed by PCR if negative.

References

1. <https://munsonhealthcare-munsonmc.policystat.com/policy/7234564/latest/>
2. <https://www.uptodate.com/contents/evaluation-of-acute-pharyngitis-in-adults>