



CONWAY MEDICAL CENTER

PROCEDURE

When in hard copy form, refer to Policy Manager to validate this as the most current revision.

TITLE:	LAB-SPC-04.07 Throat Swab Collection for Rapid Tests-PRO		
ISSUED BY:	Sr. Tech Microbiology	REFERENCE #:	LAB-SPC-04.07-PRO
APPROVED BY:	Lab Director	EFFECTIVE DATE:	1996-02-27

SCOPE: All potential collectors of lab samples.

PROCEDURE:

I. MATERIALS REQUIRED

- A. Tongue Depressor
- B. Sterile Rayon Swab

Tongue Depressors are available from the warehouse and Sterile Rayon Swabs are obtained from the Microbiology Department.

II. COLLECTION PROCOTOLS

- A. Identify the patient per protocols
- B. Tell the patient to open his/her mouth. Depress the tongue completely with the tongue depressor. It often helps with children to ask them to “pant like a dog”. Most adults are comfortable with making an “EHHH” sound as in “less”.
- C. Using the sterile Rayon swab, vigorously swab each tonsillar pillar and the posterior pharyngeal wall. Any visible exudates should also be swabbed. Use one continuous motion during the collection. Correct technique will result in discomfort for the patient.
- D. Properly label the swab and take the swab immediately to the Micro department for set up.

III. SOURCES OF ERROR

- A. The most common source of error in throat swab collection is in not using enough vigor during the swabbing. It is essential that the swab be inundated with exudates from the patient’s throat.
- B. The testing should be performed immediately so as not to compromise the sample

RECORDS: NA

REFERENCES Hematronix, Inc. KKC, 1990

REFERENCE STANDARDS: GEN.40016; GEN.40032; GEN.40050; GEN.40100



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REVISION/REVIEW HISTORY:

Date	Affected Section(s)	Summary of Changes ('Reviewed' or details of change)
05/17/11mp	None	Review/Revisions electronically saved in lab G drive
11/01/11lds	FORMAT	Change to MCN policy manager format.
03/15/13mp	All	Changed source of materials; Latest MCN format – Roman Numeral format.
03/04/15mp	All	Reviewed. No changes.
12/15/15mp	All	Changed swab type.
10/25/17mp	All	No content changes. Updated CAP references.