
Two Tools for Direct Provider-Provider Communications

The Physician Direct Connect Line

The Physician Direct Connect Line is one phone number for the providers to connect with a Pathologist/PhD about complex laboratory or pathology cases. This is a 24- hour center managed by experienced RN's who assist in being a single point of contact. Providers are connected to the specialties by use of the Intelliweb call system. **All calls about laboratory results or collections will still be routed through Laboratory Client Services.**

*Physician Connect App is a tool for providers to connect to Pathology through messaging as well as view the Guide to Services, Fact Sheets and other important laboratory information.



The Physician Direct Connect (PDC) line can assist with:

- Direct communication with a Pathologist/PhD about complex laboratory or pathology cases
- Transfer and transport requests
- Referrals from local and regional providers
- ED referrals
- Direct admissions
- Physician to physician consultation requests

The PDC line enables referring physicians to speak directly with a Nationwide Children's physician within minutes of their call.

Let the Staff at Nationwide Children's help you by calling:

(614) 355-0221

(877) 355-0221 (Toll Free)



Pathology and Laboratory Services Toolkit Now Available in Physician Connect Mobile App

The Physician Connect App helps medical professionals provide great patient care with convenient access to pediatric content direct from the experts at Nationwide Children's Hospital. This resource now includes a Pathology and Laboratory Services Toolkit, delivering lab specific resources, reports and updates at your fingertips.

- Connect and securely message our pediatric pathologists and laboratory scientists directly
- Access our full test directory with sample and preparation instructions
- View the Respiratory Pathogen and Antibiogram reports
- Quick links to our locations, testing updates and program news

Physician Connect is now available for download on either Apple or Android devices.

INFORMATION TO KNOW

Now that the Kids are Back in School, so is Strep Throat!

Nationwide Children's Laboratory Services can help with the detection of group A streptococci (GAS) in your patients by using an FDA approved nucleic acid based procedure which can function as an alternative to culture for the definitive detection of GAS in throat swabs. The GenProbe Group A Strep Direct test identifies the presence of GAS in the specimen by detecting GAS-specific nucleic acids using a probe-hybridization technique; there is no culture and incubation involved.

Advantages of the GenProbe Group A Strep Direct test for your practice are:

- All GenProbe GAS detections can be completed (reported as positive or negative) within 24 hours from the time of collection.
- All positive GenProbe GAS Direct test results are called the next day.
- GenProbe is comparable in sensitivity to standard culture for detection of GAS.
- The GenProbe GAS Direct test is reimbursed by all major health carriers and costs less than a positive throat culture.
- The GenProbe GAS Direct test will improve GAS diagnosis and turnaround time in your office.
- Throat swab collections can be performed at your closest Nationwide Children's Laboratory Service Center.

Laboratory Services recommends this procedure for your practice as a replacement for routine throat culture. This change will not require any procedural changes on the part of your staff. They will continue to collect and submit throat swab specimens as usual.

For questions regarding the GenProbe Group A Strep Direct test at Laboratory Services or to obtain dual throat culture swabs, please contact Laboratory Client Services at (800) 934-6575 or visit NationwideChildrens.org/Lab

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Be Prepared!

Respiratory season is almost here and Laboratory Services would like to encourage you to check your expiration dates and stock up on supplies for suspected respiratory illnesses that Laboratory Services can provide for you.

- M4 Viral Media Collection Kits
 - COPAN Diagnostics - Dual swabs
 - COPAN Diagnostics - Nylon Flocked Minitip, flexible plastic applicator swabs
 - Fisherbrand Polyester-tipped applicator swab
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Lockbox Specimen Storage Reminder

If refrigerated samples are stored in the lockbox, a non-frozen cold pack stored at room temperature should be placed in the lockbox to maintain the samples at the refrigerated temperature. The cold pack **should not be frozen**, since you do not want refrigerated whole blood samples to freeze.

Many laboratory tests performed at Nationwide Children's Laboratory Services require adequate refrigeration of specimens. By following this lockbox practice, you will help insure the integrity of the samples and ultimately obtain reliable laboratory results.

INFORMATION TO KNOW

How Should a Primary Care Provider Screen for Sexually Transmitted Infections?

Written by Nationwide Children's doctors, Geri D. Hewitt, MD and Katherine A. McCracken, MD, of Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology; and Steven C. Matson, MD, of Adolescent Medicine for *PediatricsOnline*¹.

Annual sexually transmitted infection testing is recommended for all sexually active adolescents, even if they are not symptomatic for an infection. We also recommend screening when a patient has a new sexual partner, or any time a patient is concerned about possible sexually transmitted infection exposure.

Testing for male and female patients should include:

- **Physical exam** — Examination of the genitals and anus for any signs of an infection, such as rash, discharge, sores or warts.
- **Serology** — Testing for HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C and syphilis.
- **Urine testing** — Testing for gonorrhea, chlamydia and trichomonas. This type of testing is convenient, but is most accurate if it is the first void of the day.

Additional testing for female patients can include:

- **Vaginal cultures** — Testing for gonorrhea, chlamydia, and trichomonas using a nucleic acid amplification test. The sample is obtained by swabbing the vagina or cervical os. Performing a speculum exam at the same time to visualize the vaginal mucosa, cervix, and vaginal discharge is preferred.
- **Wet mount** — Testing for yeast, bacterial vaginosis and trichomonas. The sample is obtained by swabbing the vagina and looking making a slide with normal saline to perform microscopy. Performing a speculum exam at the same time to visualize the vaginal mucosa, cervix, and vaginal discharge is preferred.
- Depending on a patient's sexual history, swabbing of the anus and/or throat may also be appropriate for sexually transmitted infection testing. We recommend viral identification of any vesicular lesions found.

Sexually transmitted results are confidential; we do encourage open communication between adolescents and their parents/guardians.

Developed by Nationwide Children's Laboratory Services, the reference chart for collection instructions, appropriate containers and stability guidelines for STI testing is located on the next page.

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COLLECTION OF STD SPECIMENS

TEST NAME	COLLECTION CONTAINER	COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS	STABILITY
Chlamydia & Neisseria gonorrhoeae by Aptima	Aptima Unisex Swab Specimen Collection Kit	Use for endocervical or male urethral specimen collections. Contact Laboratory Services at (800) 934-6575 for the Aptima Unisex swab collection kit.	Room temperature - 60 days Refrigerated - 60 days
	Aptima Multitest Swab Specimen Collection Kit	Use for vaginal specimen collections only. Contact Laboratory Services at (800) 934-6575 for the Aptima Multitest swab collection kit.	Room temperature - 60 days Refrigerated - 60 days
	Sterile Container (blue cap) (Urine)	Patient should not have urinated for at least 1 hour prior to specimen collection. Patient should collect first portion of a voided urine specimen (first part of stream- not midstream) into a screw-capped, sterile, plastic, preservative-free specimen collection container. Do not collect less than 10 mL or more than 20 mL of urine. Females should NOT clean the labial area prior to urination.	Room temperature - 24 hours Refrigerated - 24 hours
	M4 Collection Kit	Use for conjunctival swab, anal/rectal swab and throat swab collections. Contact Laboratory Services at (800) 934-6575 for the viral swab and M4 media collection kit.	Refrigerated - 24 hours
Chlamydia Culture	M4 Collection Kit	Use for genital and ocular specimens. Contact Laboratory Services at (800) 934-6575 for the viral swab and M4 media collection kit.	Refrigerated - 48 hours Frozen – 1 month
Neisseria gonorrhoeae (GC) Culture	Charcoal Culture Swab	Use for genital specimens and mucosal sites. Note: Recovery of Neisseria gonorrhoeae may be inhibited by use of a non-charcoal swab.	Room temperature - 24 hours
	Dual Culture Swab System	Use the red CoPan dual culture swab and transport media for genital specimens and mucosal sites.	Room temperature - 24 hours
Hepatitis B Surface Antigen	Red Top Vacutainer Tube (Blood)	Collect 3 mL of whole blood in a red top tube, (no anticoagulant), no gel.	Room temperature - 24 hours Refrigerated - 6 days
Hepatitis B Core Antibody	Red Top Vacutainer Tube (Blood)	Collect 3 mL of whole blood in a red top tube, (no anticoagulant), no gel.	Room temperature - 3 days Refrigerated - 7 days
Herpes Simplex Virus IgM Antibody	Red Top Vacutainer Tube (Blood)	Collect 3 mL of whole blood in a red top tube, (no anticoagulant), no gel. Centrifuge and separate serum from cells within 1 hour of collection and transfer serum into a transfer tube. Sample sent as whole blood will be rejected.	Room temperature serum – 2 days Refrigerated serum – 2 weeks Frozen serum – 12 months
Herpes Simplex Virus by PCR Superficial Site	M4 Collection Kit	Use for throat, genital, rectal, skin/lesion scraping, and ocular specimen collections. Contact Laboratory Services at (800) 934-6575 for the viral swab and M4 media collection kit.	Refrigerated - 4 days
Herpes Simplex Virus by Culture	M4 Collection Kit	Use skin/ lesion scraping, miscellaneous specimen. Contact Laboratory Services at (800) 934-6575 for the viral swab and M4 media collection kit.	Refrigerated - 2 days
HIV 1 & 2 Antigen/ Antibody Screen	Purple Top Vacutainer Tube (Blood)	Collect 3 mL of whole blood in a purple top tube.	Room temperature - 24 hours Refrigerated - 7 days
Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)	ThinPrep Collection Kit	Contact Laboratory Services at (800) 934-6575 for the "SurePath" or "Thin Prep" collection kit.	Room temperature - 3 weeks
Syphilis (RPR)	Red Top Vacutainer Tube (Blood)	Collect 3 mL of whole blood in a red top tube, (no anticoagulant), no gel.	Room temperature - 24 hours Refrigerated - 48 hours
Trichomonas Vaginalis Amplified Probe	Aptima Multitest Swab Specimen Collection Kit	Use for vaginal or endocervical specimen collections only. Contact Laboratory Services at (800) 934-6575 for the Aptima Multitest swab collection kit.	Room temperature - 60 days Refrigerated - 60 days
	Sterile Container (blue cap) (Urine)	Patient should not have urinated for at least 1 hour prior to specimen collection. Patient should collect first portion of a voided urine specimen (first part of stream- not midstream) into a screw-capped, sterile, plastic, preservative-free specimen collection container. Do not collect less than 10 mL or more than 20 mL of urine. Females should NOT clean the labial area prior to urination.	Room temperature - 24 hours Refrigerated - 24 hours

TEST UPDATES

New Assay to Replace Osmotic Fragility

RBC Band-3 Evaluation with peripheral blood smear review and interpretation is now available. In this new assay, Eosin-5-maleimide binds with Band-3, a major structural protein of RBC membranes. A reduction in fluorescence when compared with three control samples indicates a deficiency in Band-3. This can be seen with Hereditary Spherocytosis (HS), Hereditary Pyropoikilocytosis, Southeast Asian Ovalocytosis and Congenital Dyserythropoietic Anemia Type II (CDA). The RBC Band-3 Evaluation replaces the Erythrocyte Osmotic Fragility test which will be discontinued.

RBC Band-3 Evaluation	
Test Code	BAND3
Specimen Types & volume	3 mL purple top tube (EDTA) with 1 mL preferred volume of whole blood
Included Tests	RBC Band 3 (EMA Binding) result with pathologist review of peripheral blood smear and interpretation
Transport/Stability	Samples can be transported at room temperature and stored refrigerated for up to 48 hours.
Performed / Turnaround Time	Monday through Friday – Samples on Friday must be received before 2pm. TAT - 48 hours
Comments	Testing can be performed on infants and transfused patients

Discontinuation of Analysis of the MTHFR Gene for Variants C677CT and C1298AC

The MTHFR gene for variants C677CT and C1298AC is no longer offered at Nationwide Children's Hospital.

In adherence with published professional guidelines (PMID: 23288205 and 23963422), and in coordination with internal clinicians, our laboratory management team agrees that there is no proven, evidence-based clinical utility for this test.

Respiratory Infection Array - FARVPP Update

In October, 2018, the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine will update the Respiratory Infection Array (FARVPP) to include *Bordetella parapertussis*. In addition to the *B parapertussis*, the new respiratory panel will have broader detection capabilities and better sensitivities for Adenoviruses.

The analytes detected in the Respiratory Infection Array panel are:

- Adenovirus
- *Bordetella parapertussis*
- *Bordetella pertussis*
- *Chlamydia pneumoniae*
- Coronavirus
- Human Enterovirus
- Human Metapneumovirus
- Human Rhinovirus
- Influenza A virus
- Influenza B virus
- *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*
- Parainfluenzavirus 1 - 4
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus

For more information about these test updates, please contact Nationwide Children's Laboratory Client Services at (614) 722-5477 or (800) 934-6575.



NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S

When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.™

Nationwide Children's Hospital
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Columbus, Ohio 43205-2664

How can Nationwide Children's Laboratory Services help your practice?

- Pediatric pathologist consults on lab results
- Wide acceptance of insurance plans
- Pediatric reference ranges
- Services to enhance the laboratory process in your practice
- Interface compatibility with provider EMR systems



If you would like to become a client or learn more information about Nationwide Children's Laboratory Services, contact us at (800) 934-6575 or visit our website at NationwideChildrens.org/Lab.

Would you like to receive the Nationwide Children's Laboratory Services Newsletter electronically? Please e-mail us at LaboratoryServices@NationwideChildrens.org and let us know!