

DECEMBER / 2023

# Laboratory Services

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**NATIONWIDE  
CHILDREN'S®**

*When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.*



# eSwab Replacement of Traditional Bacterial Culture Swabs



The Microbiology Laboratory will begin converting to the eSwab® collection/transport for the majority of bacterial culture collections. As you order swabs from us you will start to see these arriving in January. Please note that Copan swabs will continue to be acceptable for all testing that we are converting to eSwabs®. Use eSwab® as you would the traditional bacterial culturette swab *except* for cultures suspected or screening for *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (GC), which includes GC screens from eye, genital and throat sources.

The traditional dual swab (Copan) will continue to be used for:

- Routine genital culture or GC screen
- Eye/Throat screen for GC
- Pre-Op Staph aureus MRSA screen (SANPCR)
- Molecular Group A Strep

eSwab® is not an acceptable collection/transport device for:

- Viral collections
- Influenza A/B, RSV, SARS CoV-2
- Molecular STI testing
- Point of Care testing
- Respiratory Pathogen Panel
- Stool swab collection
- Vaginitis Panel
- Rapid Strep A (GASM, RMGAS)

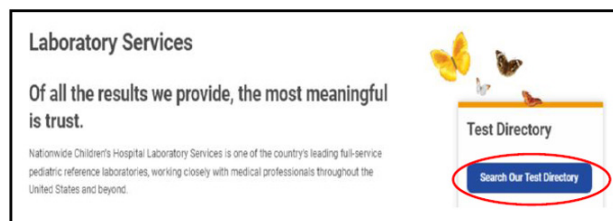
**NOTE:** The eSwab® container holds Liquid Amies Fluid which maintains the viability of diverse bacteria for up to 48 hours. **Do not send a dry eSwab® as this will lead to unsatisfactory results.**

## New Laboratory Test Directory

Our new Laboratory Test Directory went live **Monday, October 31st**. The new directory contains easier-to-read collection information as well as links to convenient and frequently used website items such as requisitions and supply orders.

You can access the Laboratory Test Directory the following ways:

1. In your browser go to our website, **NationwideChildrens.org/Lab** and click on “Search our Test Directory”



2. Scan your current Nationwide Children's Laboratory Test Directory QR Code.



Complete instructions on how to navigate the Test Directory can be found on our website under “News and Publications.”

**Did You Know?**

## Quantity Not Sufficient (QNS) Samples

One of the benefits of using Nationwide Children's Laboratory Services is our expertise in pediatric laboratory medicine. Part of that expertise includes development of protocols that allow us to perform testing on very limited quantities of blood and other fluids. We pride ourselves on the understanding of the challenges of collecting an adequate and appropriate sample from our most difficult patients. Because of this, we take the occasional need to reject testing due to insufficient volume very seriously. Each decision is made only after every option is considered and attempted. Frankly, it is much more difficult to reject and credit a sample than it is to put in the extra effort to get a result. The same criteria that drive our protocols for low volume testing are considerations when we purchase equipment, evaluate collection supplies, develop our testing, and train our staff.

When your office is notified that a sample was “quantity not sufficient for analysis”, you can feel confident that decades of experience and expertise were behind the effort to provide your patient with the highest quality laboratory result.



# REMINDER

Lot No. 0H10B2  
Mfd. 10/08/2020  
Exp. 09/08/2023

## Check Your Lab Supplies' Expiration Dates!

As the year comes to a close we would like to take the opportunity to remind you to always check the expiration dates of your collection containers prior to collecting samples. Such containers include blood collection tubes, blood culture media, swabs, blood spot filter paper cards and all transport media (e.g., O&P, and Cary Blair media, viral M4 media, ThinPrep and Protocol 10% formalin media). It is good practice to check expiration dates of your collection supplies to avoid sample rejections, time taken to recollect the specimen, and delay of treatment by incorporating 'Supply Expiration Date' checks into your monthly checklist.

## Visible Barcodes Please

When sending specimens with the courier, please place the NCH Laboratory requisition in the outside pouch of the biohazard bag so that the barcode label is facing out. By doing this, the barcode is visible to the courier so that they can scan the code without effort. Scanning the barcode for each specimen ensures we are able to track your patient's lab samples.



## Cold Weather Specimen Storage

Now that winter has arrived, it is important that samples placed in a lockbox outdoors prior to transport to the laboratory be maintained at the appropriate temperature. 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.





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

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!

Lab Account Representatives are available via email to assist with any questions or concerns.

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