

UNITYPOINT HEALTH - MERITER LABORATORIES
TEST ANNOUNCEMENT
Group A Strep Molecular

11/20/2025

Starting immediately, mandatory questions along with a comment will be added in EPIC when ordering a Strep Group A Molecular test. These questions, listed below, concern the patient's drug allergy status and need for susceptibility testing:

- *Does the patient have a history of severe IgE-mediated allergy to penicillin, amoxicillin, or beta-lactams?*
- *Run sensitivities?*

If the first question is answered yes, the second question will cascade to be answered. If the patient does not have a severe IgE mediated allergy, sensitivities will not be performed. Additional information can be found in the comments section of the Molecular test, as seen below:

*Resistance to penicillins and cephalosporins has not been reported in *S. pyogenes* (group A Strep). For patients unable to use a beta-lactam, sensitivities may be requested for clindamycin and macrolide using the order buttons above.*

If the Strep A PCR result is Positive and the second question is answered yes, a susceptibility test will be reflexed and performed:

	Current In-House Test	Reflex Test
Test Name	Group A Strep Molecular	Culture Susceptibility, Referred Isolate
Epic EAP	LAB6555	LAB2195
SQ Code	GPAPCR	ZCXSEN

Group A Strep Molecular

Epic/SQ Order Code: LAB6555/GPAPCR

Performing Laboratory: Meriter Laboratories

Methodology: Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR)

Specimen Requirements: Throat collected with eSwab 480C

Specimen Handling and Transport: 15-30°C up to 48 hours
2-8 °C up to 6 days

Turnaround Time: STAT- 1 hour
Routine- 24 hours

CPT Code: 87651

If you have any questions, please call the UnityPoint Health - Meriter Laboratories Client Services Department at 608-417-6529 or 1-800-236-0465.