



August 27, 2025

To all physician and staff members;

St. Joseph's/Candler Laboratory is pleased to announce the implementation of PCR/Molecular testing for Strep B (*Streptococcus agalactiae*) effective 9/9/2025. The PCR testing will allow a quicker turn-around time for both positive and negative specimens compared to the traditional culture-based methods.

The collection methodology will remain the same as the Strep B culture (Liquid Amies E-Swab). Specimens can be stored/transported at room temperature if received within 24hrs of collection or specimens may be stored at 2–8 °C for up to two days.

Routine Strep B screens will now be performed using this methodology. The new test code mnemonic for ordering is GBS.

Note: Due to rare resistance to penicillin and cephalosporins, routine susceptibility is not required for *Streptococcus agalactiae* and this testing does not provide susceptibility results. For patients with a known penicillin allergy that requires susceptibility testing, a culture can be requested within 48 hrs post reporting.

For questions or concerns, please contact the Laboratory at 912-819-2875.

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