

New York State Dept of Health Bacteriology Proficiency Testing Program Instruction Sheet – Antigen Detection – Group A *Streptococcus*

April 30, 2012

The Antigen Detection - Group A *Streptococcus* category is applicable to laboratories examining throat specimens for Beta-hemolytic *Streptococcus* group A using antigen detection techniques only. There are 3 proficiency tests annually in this category. A minimum score of 80% is required to pass each test event. Failure to achieve a score of 80% on two of three consecutive testing events is considered unsuccessful performance.

Upon receipt and prior to testing, store the antigen specimens in their original sealed pouches at 4°C to 8°C.

If there is any problem with the specimens, you **MUST** inform our office before close of business on **May 8, 2012** by calling (518) 474-4177.

Instructions

1. Specimen content and processing

This shipment consists of five specimens, all of which are simulated throat specimens. If the pouches have been stored under refrigeration, allow them to reach room temperature before testing. Open each pouch and remove the swab. Process and test the antigen swabs in the same manner as all throat swabs.

Please note that some kits use very small amounts of liquid for the extraction process and the test swab may absorb all extraction liquid. If this occurs, **add 3-5 drops sterile water to the extraction tube and continue with the test procedure.

2. Reporting of results

For each specimen, indicate whether or not Group A *Streptococcus* was detected. Please indicate the name of the manufacturer and kit you used to obtain your results.

3. Submission of results

- The deadline for submission of results is **May 14, 2012**.
- Results must be submitted electronically unless prior approval has been obtained from the Clinical Laboratory Evaluation Program.
- **Electronic reporting: Do not submit paper results.** Specific questions regarding electronic reporting should be addressed to the Clinical Laboratory Evaluation Program at **(518) 485-5378** or by emailing clepeptrs@health.state.ny.us

If you have any questions regarding the Bacteriology Proficiency Testing Program, please contact Dr. Wendy Archinal at **(518) 474-4177** or bacti@wadsworth.org.