

# ***Streptococcus pyogenes***

## **Point-Prevalence Survey Specimen Collection Guidance**

### **Purpose**

To aid in the collection of colonization screens to determine the presence of *Streptococcus pyogenes*

### **Specimen**

Throat and wound specimens (your state's HAI program epidemiologists should assist in determining the population at risk).

### **Labeling Requirements**

Patient's full name, birth-date, specimen source, and date of collection.

### **Specimen Collection**

The Utah Public Health Laboratory is validated for the following sample sources:

- Wound and Throat swabs use the Copan ESwab (white top tube with fluid).



**PLEASE NOTE: SEAL CONTAINERS WITH PARAFILM STRIPS AND PLACE INDIVIDUAL SPECIMENS IN SEPARATE SPECIMEN BAGS TO PREVENT CROSS-CONTAMINATION.**

# *Streptococcus pyogenes*

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### Procedure: Wound Swab

- 1) Perform proper hand hygiene and wear appropriate PPE.
- 2) Label the swab with the appropriate information: patient name, birthdate, specimen source, and date of collection.
- 3) If the wound is bandaged, remove the dressing and rinse with sterile water or saline to remove any topical treatments (e.g., creams, ointments, antiseptics) prior to collection.
- 4) Open the Copan ESwab (white top tube with fluid) packaging and carefully remove the tube from its outer packaging, leaving the swab tip enclosed in the package to prevent contamination.
- 5) Pull the swab from the package, being careful not to touch the soft tip.
- 6) The swab may be moistened with sterile saline. Rotate the swab gently but firmly over the central area of the wound including any exudate.
- 7) Place the swab in the tube and then, holding the swab shaft close to the rim of the tube, break the applicator shaft at the red breakpoint indication line. The swab tip should touch the liquid Aimes transport media at the bottom of the tube. Prevent any loss of liquid transport media.
- 8) Secure the white lid back on the tube and seal with parafilm.

### Stability

Samples must be tested within 24 hours of collection.

# ***Streptococcus pyogenes***

## **Point-Prevalence Survey Specimen Collection Guidance**



### **Procedure: Throat Swab**

- 1) Perform proper hand hygiene and wear appropriate PPE.
- 2) Open the Copan ESwab (white top tube with fluid) packaging and carefully remove the tube from its outer packaging, leaving the swab tip enclosed in the package to prevent contamination.
- 3) Label the tube with the appropriate information: patient name, birth-date, specimen source, and date of collection.
- 4) Position the patient and light source to illuminate the posterior oropharynx.
- 5) Have the patient open the mouth and relax the tongue by saying "aaaah."
- 6) Pull the swab from the package, being careful not to touch the soft tip.
- 7) Press the tongue down using a tongue depressor.
- 8) Gently rub the swab against both tonsils and the posterior pharynx.
- 9) Place the swab in the tube and then, holding the swab shaft close to the rim of the tube, break the applicator shaft at the red breakpoint indication line. The swab tip should touch the liquid Aimes transport media at the bottom of the tube. Prevent any loss of liquid transport media.
- 10) Secure the white lid back on the tube and seal with parafilm.

### **Stability**

Samples must be tested within 24 hours of collection.