Corewell Health

Corewell Health Laboratory

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Laboratory Bulletin

Discontinuation of Rapid Intrapartum Group B Strep Testing

Effective Date: June 3, 2024

As part of standardization efforts within Corewell Health Laboratory, rapid intrapartum Group B Strep (GBS) testing was reviewed. Rapid intrapartum GBS testing is used to identify GBS colonization in patients in labor at term who have unknown or unavailable antepartum GBS screening test results and no additional risk factors that would warrant empiric antibiotic prophylaxis.

Due to imperfect sensitivity of the rapid intrapartum GBS test, all samples are automatically reflex-tested using traditional culture-enhanced GBS testing. As such, negative results do not rule out GBS colonization until reflex testing is complete, which may take 72-96 hours.

Due to the limited sensitivity, limitation to patients with no additional risk factors, and limited availability of rapid testing capabilities at most hospitals with labor and delivery departments, rapid intrapartum GBS screening will no longer be offered by Corewell Health Laboratory. Traditional culture enhanced GBS testing will remain available both for antepartum and intrapartum GBS screening.

Published and in-house data shows that basing treatment on a risk-based strategy would lead to undertreatment of GBS colonization in patients with unknown GBS status. The currently recommended practice is to prophylactically treat all laboring patients with unknown GBS status. For specific treatment recommendations, please contact the OB/GYN department.

For questions regarding testing, please contact Corewell Health Laboratory Customer Service Department:

- Farmington Hills, Grosse Pointe, Royal Oak, and Troy: 800-551-0488 or 248-551-1155, Option 5
- Dearborn, Taylor, Trenton, and Wayne: 800-245-3725, Option 1 Laboratory Test

Date submitted:	May 1, 2024
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