
April 2021

Group B Strep (GBS)

Background: As of May 3, 2021, Methodist Laboratory will be converting the Group B Strep Screen from culture to a molecular test (ARIES® GBS Assay). This test is designed to detect Group B Streptococcus (GBS) nucleic acid from 18-24 hour LIM broth enrichments of vaginal-rectal swab specimens obtained from pregnant women. Molecular GBS screening will enable faster turnaround time and improved accuracy for detecting GBS.

Specimen Requirements: Vaginal-rectal swab specimens – unchanged

Order: Group B Strep by PCR

Turn Around Time: 24-48 hours. Routine testing is performed daily.

Performance:

Sensitivity: 96.1%, Specificity: 91.4%

Follow up testing by culture for negative results is not required.

Reporting: Results will be reported as “POSITIVE” or “NEGATIVE”.

Notes:

Vaginal-rectal screening samples should be obtained at 36 0/7–37 6/7 weeks gestation, per ACOG guidelines.

Susceptibility will automatically be performed if an allergy to penicillin is indicated on the order.

Susceptibility may also be requested if not performed automatically.

References:

- ARIES® GBS Assay Package Insert
- Guidelines for the Detection and Identification of Group B Streptococcus March 10, 2020. ASM Clinical and Public Health Microbiology Committee, Subcommittee on Laboratory Practices
- ACOG Prevention of Group B Streptococcal Early-Onset Disease in Newborns Committee Opinion February 2020

Please direct any questions to Dr. Karre, director of microbiology at (402)354-7842 or LaNett Whisler, microbiology service leader at (402)354-4586.