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TEST UPDATE
GROUP B STREP DETECTION BY PCR

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OVERVIEW AND CLINICAL UTILITY:

Effective March 16, 2015, PathGroup will change Group B Streptococcus (GBS) detection by routine culture to the FDA-approved BD MAX™ GBS assay, test code MGBS. The BD MAX™ GBS assay provides excellent clinical sensitivity and specificity, 95% and 96.7% respectively. PCR assays greatly increase sensitivity compared to the standard culture method for GBS screening.

Group B Streptococcal Disease is the leading cause of early-onset neonatal sepsis in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines recommend sensitive nucleic acid amplification tests (NAAT) in lieu of routine culture for the detection of GBS in rectal and vaginal specimens. Universal screening for pregnant women is recommended at 35 to 37 weeks gestation.

Penicillin or ampicillin are standard of care for intrapartum prophylaxis of GBS carriers. For those at serious risk of anaphylaxis due to penicillin or ampicillin allergies, susceptibility testing can be ordered using test code MGBSWS. This reflexive test will result in an additional charge but will only be performed after a positive GBS result.

TEST METHODOLOGY:

Lim Broth inoculation and >18 hour incubation at 37°C followed by DNA isolation and PCR amplification of the *cfb* gene of Group B Streptococcus.

ORDERING:

TEST CODE	TEST NAME	CPT CODE	LOINC
MGBS	Group B Streptococcus by PCR	87653	5034-4
MGBSWS	Group B Streptococcus by PCR with Susceptibility	87186	N/A

SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND STORAGE:

IF ORDERING:	
MGBS or MGBWS	Vaginal/rectal specimens collected with bacterial collection swabs provided by PathGroup (Blue cap, Red cap, or White cap swabs).

TEST PERFORMED: Monday - Saturday

TURNAROUND TIME: 48 hours (Additional time required for susceptibility testing)

For further questions, please contact Client Services at 615-562-9300 or 1-888-474-5227.