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### RESPView Pathogen Surveillance 2013-2014

- To date, there are NO influenza isolates confirmed in Geisinger Region or in Pennsylvania.
- We plan to initiate Flu testing Nov 1, 2013. Stay tuned.

### 10X Essentials

#### *New Rapid Testing Platforms for VRE*

- Beginning October 1, 2013, the Microbiology Laboratory at GMC and GSACH began rapid testing for VRE active surveillance.

#### *Changes to Group B Streptococcus Testing*

- Universal screening for GBS at 35 to 37 weeks' gestation is now recommended in all pregnant women, optimal screen method is PCR.
- Beginning 10/1/2013 **Group B strep positives are triaged to susceptibility testing** as our data documents increases to drug resistance of GBS in our region. **Rationale:** Susceptibility testing is performed for all positive patients due to increasing antibiotic resistance in our region, lack of consistently reliable data to identify penicillin allergic patients, and the desire to avoid needless vancomycin prophylaxis (and associated risks) if erythromycin susceptibility is unknown. A susceptibility battery (GRBSS-OBL, Group B Susceptibility) will be automatically ordered by Laboratory Information System (LIS) and performed by Microbiology.
- A susceptibility battery (GRBSS-OBL, Group B Susceptibility) will be automatically ordered by Laboratory Information System (LIS) and performed by Microbiology. Refer to attached GBS FAQ sheet for more information.



**Questions:** For newsletter questions, contact Christy Attinger at (570) 271-6338 or me.

*Best regards, Donna M. Wolk, MHA, Ph.D., D(ABMM), GML System Director of Microbiology*

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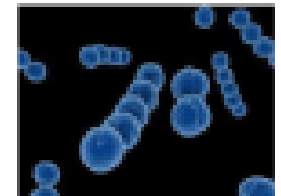
# 10X Essentials: Infectious Disease Diagnostics in the Geisinger Health System

## Group B *Streptococcus* (GBS) Testing Guide

### Clinical and Diagnostic Utility [http://www.geisingermedicallabs.com/10xEssentials/testing\\_guides.shtml](http://www.geisingermedicallabs.com/10xEssentials/testing_guides.shtml)

- The standard for prevention of neonatal GBS disease is screening pregnant women with a molecular test method at 35–37 weeks of gestation to determine their colonization status, which can be transient, chronic, or intermittent.
- The Xpert GBS LB Assay (test code GRBS) is one of the methods indicated for assessment of GBS colonization status in antepartum women.
- GRBS is designed to detect GBS DNA from Lim broth-enriched vaginal/rectal swab specimens, GRBS results are obtained in approximately one day after collection.

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GBS

### Testing Criteria

**Specimen:** swab specimen(s); vaginal/rectal combination (swabbing both the lower vagina and rectum (past the anal sphincter) is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and may increase yield compared with sampling the one site alone).

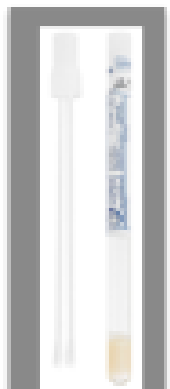
**Approved devices:** Molecular Testing swab (white cap), ESwabs™ (white cap)

**Transport Temperature:** Preferred transport temperature to laboratory at 2-8 degrees C (stability = 6 days).

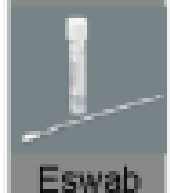
**Antibiotic Susceptibility Testing:** Susceptibility testing is performed for all positive patients due to increasing antibiotic resistance in our region, lack of consistent reliable data to identify penicillin allergic patients, and the desire to avoid excessive vancomycin use if clindamycin susceptibility is unknown. A susceptibility battery (GRBS-OBL, Group B Susceptibility) will be automatically ordered by Laboratory Information System (LIS) and performed by Microbiology.

**Contraindications:** 1) Patients who have used systemic or topical (vaginal) antibiotic treatment in the week prior  
2) patients diagnosed with placenta previa  
3) males.

**Performance:** Demonstrated sensitivity/specificity for detection of GBS is 99.0% and 92.4%, respectively, relative to culture.



Molecular  
swab



Eswab