

# Strep Group A by NAAT Test Update

Effective October 25, 2021, Clinical Labs of Hawaii will be transitioning to a new molecular platform as part of our ongoing commitment to excellence. Testing will be performed on the Abbott ID NOW™, a rapid molecular *in vitro* diagnostic test that utilizes isothermal nucleic acid amplification technology (NAAT) for the detection of nucleic acid from *Streptococcus pyogenes* (Group A Streptococcus) in throat swab specimens obtained from patients with signs and symptoms of pharyngitis.


*Streptococcus pyogenes* is a significant pathogen that can cause pharyngitis, and an accurate diagnosis is necessary to properly treat the disease. For Group A Strep, antibiotic therapy is the treatment of choice; and if left untreated, serious complications, such as rheumatic fever, may occur.<sup>1</sup>

Testing is performed at our Heights, Kapiolani, Straub, Pali Momi, Wilcox, Kona, Kau and Hilo Medical Center laboratories daily and can be ordered as a STAT test.

Please note that this test will be a replacement for the Group A Strep Antigen Test with Reflex to Culture. Compared to the antigen test, this NAAT has similar or higher sensitivity and specificity values, which may eliminate the need for culture confirmation of negative results.

	Current assay (Antigen)	New assay (NAAT)
Sensitivity	94.1-96.6% <sup>2-3</sup>	98.5-98.7% <sup>4-5</sup>
Specificity	95.5-97.9% <sup>2-3</sup>	93.4-98.5% <sup>4-5</sup>

The new Strep Group A by NAAT collection and order information are listed below:

SPECIMEN INFORMATION	
Test Code	SANOW (4519)
Specimen Requirements	<p><b>BD BBL™ CultureSwab™ EZ II (purple currette) only</b></p>  <p><b>**contact CLH for Strep A NAAT Kits</b>            ***Specimens collected in any other media (i.e., eSwabs) will be rejected.            Source: Throat</p>
Specimen Stability	After collection, up to 72 hours refrigerated
Performed at	Heights, Kapiolani, Straub, Pali Momi, Wilcox, Kona, Kau, Hilo Medical Center
Turn-Around Time	Run daily. Can be ordered STAT.
Methodology	Isothermal nucleic acid amplification
Results	Qualitative
Reference Range	Negative

If you have any questions, please contact our Client Services Department at 808-677-7998 on Oahu or 1-866-281-6816 toll free.

**Thank you for choosing Clinical Labs of Hawaii.**

References:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/groupastrep/diseases-hcp/strep-throat.html>
- BD Veritor Product Insert
- Int J Pediatr Otorhinolaryngol. 2020 Jun;133:109908.
- ID NOW Strep A 2 Product Insert
- J Clin Microbiol. 2015 Jul;53(7):2258-61.