

Group A Strep, Rapid Antigen



Alternate Name:	Rapid Strep Screen
Performing Lab:	New Hanover and Cape Fear
Specimen Container:	Swab collection system
Minimum Volume Required:	Not applicable
Testing Availability	Routine: 24 hours/day Stat: Yes
Turnaround Time:	< 1 hour
Special Handling:	Specimens must be delivered to the laboratory within 30 minutes of collection
Patient Preparation:	None
Specimen Stability:	
Reference Range:	Negative for Group A Strep
Critical Value:	None
CPT Code:	87880
Testing Methodology:	Direct detection of Group A Streptococcus by color immunochromatographic technology
Causes for Specimen Rejection:	Improper labeling Specimen not collected in sterile container Specimen container must not be contaminated on the outside Specimen not delivered to the laboratory within 30 minutes of collection
Other Comments:	
Clinical Significance:	Rheumatic fever remains a concern in the United States and serious complications including sepsis, soft tissue invasion, and toxic shock-like syndrome have been reported to be increasing in frequency; ¹ therefore,

timely diagnosis and early institution of appropriate therapy remains important. Timely therapy may reduce the acute symptoms and overall duration of streptococcal pharyngitis. The sequelae of poststreptococcal glomerulonephritis and rheumatic fever are diminished by early therapy.