



NEW TEST NOTIFICATION

Group B Strep by PCR – Prenatal Screen

Northern Plains Laboratory (NPL) is pleased to announce the addition of the Cepheid Xpert Group B Strep Lim Broth PCR assay on April 30, 2018. This assay is a qualitative in vitro diagnostic test designed to detect Group B *Streptococcus* (GBS) DNA from enriched vaginal/rectal swab specimens, using fully automated realtime polymerase chain reaction (PCR). Xpert GBS LB Assay testing is indicated as an aid in determining GBS colonization status in antepartum women.

GBS bacterial infection is associated with serious illness in newborns born to women who are colonized with the bacteria. Transmission of GBS occurs from GBS-colonized women to their newborn before birth (antepartum) or during birth (intrapartum). In the United States, GBS infection is the major cause of death in newborns who develop sepsis, pneumonia, or meningitis. The standard of care for preventing neonatal GBS disease is screening pregnant women at 35–37 weeks of gestation to determine their GBS colonization status. Utilizing a molecular PCR screening method, which studies have proven to have increased sensitivity over traditional bacterial culture methods, should result in increased GBS detection that may have a positive direct impact on patient care.

Note: All PCR positive GBS samples will be cultured so that antibiotic susceptibility testing can be performed.

Specimen: Collect swab specimen using an Aimes or Liquid Stuarts swab/transport media.

- Collect at 35 – 37 weeks of pregnancy.
- Swab vagina, sampling secretions from the lower one third of the vagina. Using the same swab, next insert into rectum about ≥ 0.5 cm beyond the anal sphincter.
- Place the culture swab into Aimes or Stuarts transport media.
- Be sure to appropriately label the specimen with sample identification.

Transport swab specimen to the laboratory. Swab sample is stable for 24 hours at room temperature or for up to 6 days if stored refrigerated at 2-8 °C

For additional testing information, please contact NPL at 701-530-5700 or 1-800-645-1003.

Test Code	CPT Code(s)	Test Name	Specimen	Reference Range
GBSP	87653	Group B Strep by PCR	Vag/Rectal Swab	Negative