



MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 22, 2016

TO: Physicians and Midwives at Hamilton Health Sciences and
St. Joseph's Healthcare, Hamilton
Microbiology Partners

FROM: Dr. Marek Smieja, Discipline Director Microbiology, HRLMP
Dr. Padman Jayaratne, Microbiologist, HRLMP
Ms. Candy Rutherford, Technical Specialist, Microbiology, HRLMP

RE: **LAMP Detection of *Streptococcus agalactiae* (Group B *Streptococcus*)
from Rectal or Vaginal Swabs**

Effective Wednesday, January 27, 2016, the Microbiology Laboratory is changing its detection method for *Streptococcus agalactiae* (Group B *Streptococcus*) from culture to molecular detection. Rectal, vaginal, or combined rectal-vaginal swabs will be incubated overnight in enrichment broth (Lim broth), followed by detection using Loop-mediated isothermal Amplification (LAMP). This new molecular method increases detection by about 10% and decreases turn-around time to 18-24 hours total, from the current 48-72 hours.

The order codes (CGBS or HBO Code 25370) for this test have NOT changed; however, there are several changes of which you should be aware:

- 1) Positive LAMP results will be reported as: "*Streptococcus agalactiae* (Group B) detected. This isolate is predictably susceptible to penicillin and ampicillin."
- 2) Culture and susceptibility testing will not be performed routinely on LAMP positive specimens as *S. agalactiae* (group B) is predictably susceptible to penicillin. If susceptibility testing is required (e.g. penicillin allergy) please call the Virology Molecular Microbiology Laboratory at 905-522-1155, Ext. 33708 within 7 days of test submission.
- 3) Occasionally, *S. agalactiae* detected by LAMP testing will not grow in culture and in these cases susceptibility testing will not be possible.

This change will result in shorter turn-around times while increasing test sensitivity. Please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Marek Smieja (905 522-1155, Ext. 36021) or the Microbiology Laboratory (905 522-1155, Ext. 33708) if you have any questions about this exciting change.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you and our patients.