

May 16, 2022

Change to eSwab[®] for Routine Swab Culture processed by Shared Health Clinical Microbiology Laboratories

Date effective: May 30, 2022

Background Information:

Effective May 30, 2022, Shared Health Clinical Microbiology Laboratories **will be no longer accept red top Copan M40 swabs** for the majority of tests where a swab is appropriate for submission. The **Copan eSwab[®] will replace the M40 swab** for sample collection for most tests where a swab is appropriate for submission.

Note: This change **does not** apply to swabs sent to Cadham Provincial Laboratory. The process for their sample collection remains the same.

A two-week grace period will be given to help care providers/laboratories with the transition to eSwab[®]. Samples in the red top Copan M40 swabs will be accepted only until June 13, 2022.

Clinical Practice Change:

Beginning May 30, 2022, the Copan eSwab[®] will replace the M40 swab for sample collection for most tests where a swab is appropriate for submission. Exceptions include swabs collected for *Trichomonas* antigen testing, Group A Strep antigen testing, *Bordetella pertussis* testing, and COVID-19, influenza and RSV testing.

- eSwab[®] is a liquid-based multipurpose collection and transport system that maintains the viability of aerobic, anaerobic and fastidious bacteria for up to 48 hours.
- eSwab[®] combines a flocked (soft nylon fiber) swab with 1 mL of Liquid Amies media in a plastic, screw-cap tube.
- There will be no change to culture reporting or final reports based on implementation of eSwab[®].
- There will be no change to any other collection or testing processes (e.g., tissue, fluid, and sputum samples) based on implementation of eSwab[®]. Continue to collect samples as per current guide to services (LIM) requirements.

The eSwab[®] should not be used for *Trichomonas* antigen testing, Group A Strep antigen testing, *Bordetella pertussis* testing, and COVID-19, influenza and RSV testing. Please continue to submit these requests as indicated in the [Lab Information Manual](#).

Action Required:

- Review your current supply of Copan M40 red top swabs, with the expectation to no longer use this product (exceptions indicated above) for the majority of swab collections after May 30, 2022.
- Order an appropriate amount of eSwab[®] stock for conversion

- eSwab® supplies are available through established supply sources (i.e., warehouse, SAP and Materials Management).

Ordering Information:

New Product	Size/Volume packaging	Vendor	Vendor Product Code	SAP
SWAB FLOCKED REG W/1ML LIQ AMIES MEDIUM (ESWAB)	PK/50	Micronostyx	CA480C	355162

Resources: [ESwab Instructions](#) & [ESwab Instruction Poster](#)

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