Dear Valued Partner,

Solstas Lab Partners® is pleased to announce the availability and change of the conventional microbiology collection swab to the eSwab™ collection and transport system.

Studies using “eluting” eSwab have shown better organism recovery of bacteria including fastidious and anaerobic bacteria (1-4). This microbiology collection device contains 1 mL of Amies media. The swab is "flocked" which allows the rapid release of bacteria into the media, enabling better recovery and standardization of gram stain and culture results (1-4). The eSwab is available in a standard size (white cap container) for routine cultures and a small tip collection swab (blue cap container) for nasal sources and/or sources that require a small tip collection device.

The previous conventional swab collection device for microbiology culture will continue to be accepted; however, after May 1, 2013, Solstas will only provide eSwabs for microbiology culture collection by swab. Viral cultures will continue to be collected in Viral Transport Media.

Instructions for use:

1. Open the eSwab sample collection pouch and remove the tube and swab.
2. Collect the sample from the patient.
3. Aseptically unscrew and remove the cap from the tube.
4. Insert the swab into the tube and break the swab shaft at the breakpoint indicated by the colored line marked on the swab shaft. Discard the broken handle part of the swab shaft into an approved medical waste disposal container.
5. Replace the cap on the tube and secure tightly.
6. Write patient information on the tube label or apply patient identification label. Send the sample to the laboratory.

eSwabs can be ordered through the normal Solstas client supply ordering process using the following ordering information:

- White cap standard eSwab - # 1011165 (aerobic, anaerobic and fastidious organism collection);
- Blue cap eSwab - # 1011166 (for collection of nasal and sites requiring small swab, e.g., eye cultures).

For further information, please contact your Client Relationship Specialist or contact one of the following:

Solstas Client Services - Greensboro: 888-664-7601
Microbiology Lab GSO: 888-664-7601, Option #3
Janice Hessling, MD PhD, Corporate Medical Director

Solstas Client Services - Roanoke: 800-653-2205
Microbiology Core Lab – Roanoke: 540-981-8823
Dale Grgurich – Micro Mgr Roanoke: 540-981-7512
William Jefferson, MD – Asst Med Director, Micro
William Price, MD – Medical Director, Roanoke

References:

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eSwab™ is a trademark of Copan Diagnostics, Inc.