McLaren
MEDICAL LABORATORY

4000 S Saginaw Street
Flint, MI 48507

Laboratory Technical Bulletin

Liquid Amies Elution Swab (ESwab®) Collection and Transport System

Effective Date: 2/17/25

In an effort to standardize specimen collection, all swabs for Bacterial/Fungal cultures are to be collected in an ESwab® Liquid Based Collection and Transport tubes. Culturettes for submitting dry swabs or those containing sponges or gel will no longer be available through McLaren Supply Chain, however the lab will continue to accept specimens correctly collected in these devices until existing supplies are exhausted.

This change DOES NOT impact viral collection kits (M-4, UVT, VTM) which are primarily used for PCR testing.

Benefits of Standardization

- Eliminates confusion by standardizing to a single product for the detection of most pathogens (except viruses).
- No need for separate collection devices for aerobic and anaerobic swab cultures.
- Reduces the likelihood of QNS order cancellation by providing sufficient test material for:
  - inoculation of multiple plates and media types.
  - add-on testing if requested.
  - repeat testing if required.
- Stabilizes specimens at room temperature (20-25°C) up to 48 hours after collection.
- Prepares for the transition to future automation in the Microbiology Laboratory.
- No change in how swabs are collected by clinicians.



Ordering Information

ESwab® Collection Kits

- PeopleSoft: SWAB ESWAB NYLON… (50/PACK) Item # 1095559
- Also available on the Outreach Lab Supply Request Form.

Moving forward, orders for the following products will be filled with ESwab® Collection Kits listed above.

- Swab, Aerobic Culture (Red Cap) Item # 1092016 or C8552-10
- Swab, Anaerobic Culture (Blue Cap) Item # 1001458 or 220117

For questions, please call:

- MML Client Services 810-396-5715
- Corporate Microbiology Lab 810-396-5755

Date submitted: 1/27/25

Submitted by: Ali Gabali, MD, PhD Medical Director, McLaren Medical Laboratory
John Gibson, MS System Manager, Microbiology