

## Group A Beta Hemolytic *Streptococcus* Qualitative Test

### CERNER ORDERABLE

Strep Grp A PCR QL, GAS PCR

### CPT CODE

87651

### CLINICAL UTILITY

The **Group A  $\beta$ -hemolytic streptococcus** (*Streptococcus pyogenes*, or *GAS*) is a form of  $\beta$ -hemolytic Streptococcus bacteria responsible for many common infections. The most common types of infection include those of the skin (impetigo, cellulitis and erysipelas) and those of the throat – ‘strep throat’ also known as streptococcal pharyngitis. Less common infections include bacteremia, septic arthritis, osteomyelitis, sinusitis, meningitis and pneumonia. Rapid diagnosis of GAS pharyngitis may improve patient care by ensuring that patients with GAS pharyngitis are treated quickly and also avoiding unnecessary use of antibiotics in those without GAS infection. IU Health Molecular Pathology lab GAS QL PCR is to be used to follow-up negative Rapid Group A Strep Screens<sup>1</sup>.

### METHODOLOGY

Qualitative PCR

### SPECIMENS

Throat Swab

### SPECIMEN STABILITY

Refrigerate up to 72 hours after collection.  
Greater than 72 hours after collection freeze.

### SHIPPING

Ship specimen at refrigerator temperature

### CAUSES FOR REJECTION

Incorrect collection swab  
Not stored properly after collection

### SPECIFICITY

The primer used detects the exotoxin B gene of the Group A beta hemolytic streptococcus

### ASSAY RANGE

Qualitative results (Detected/Not detected)

### TURNAROUND TIME

7 days a week, 24 hours

1. Reference information can be found in the Indiana University Health Molecular Assay Procedures.