



**MEMORANDUM #174**

TO: UNCMC Attending Physicians, Housestaff, Clinical Nurse Coordinators, Department Heads and Supervisors

FROM: *PG* Peter H. Gilligan, PhD, Director, Clinical Microbiology-Immunology Laboratory  
*HW* Herbert C. Whinna, MD, PhD, Medical Director, McLendon Clinical Laboratories

SUBJECT: **New Bacterial Swab Collection Devices**

DATE: September 11, 2017

Effective October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, the UNCH McLendon Clinical Laboratories will implement new bacterial culture swab collection devices. The new swabs offer superior recovery of organisms over the currently used swabs and will eliminate the need for separate aerobic and anaerobic swabs for culture. The conversion to these swabs is also necessary to accommodate the microbiology laboratory's new automated instrument. The current white capped and blue capped gel swabs will be eliminated from inventory.

Additionally, all specimens collected for viral PCR testing will now be collected in BD Universal Viral transport collection devices. These devices are currently being used for respiratory virus collection only, but will now be used for all viral PCR specimen collections. Fungal culture collections will NOT convert to ESwab.

See the charts below for swab conversion information.

Current bacterial culture swab	Replacement bacterial culture swab
White capped swab Lawson #50441	Regular ESwab Lawson # 309762 (most cultures) or Flexible mini tip blue ESwab Lawson # 143675 (Ear, NP and sinus cultures only)
Blue capped swab Lawson #50442	Regular ESwab Lawson # 309762 (most cultures) or Flexible mini tip blue ESwab Lawson # 143675 (Ear, NP and sinus cultures only)

Current viral PCR testing swab (VZV, HSV, Adenovirus, etc)	Replacement viral testing swab
White capped swab Lawson #50441	BD Universal Viral transport kit Lawson # 050750

Current fungal culture swab	Replacement fungal culture swab
White capped swab Lawson #50441	Red capped double swab Lawson #050439

**Detailed wall charts which list all of the swabs in use at UNC Hospitals and their associated EPIC test orders can be found on the McLendon Labs webpage at this link [Microbiology Swab Reference Chart](#)**

If you have questions or need further information, please contact Martha McGee, AAD of the Clinical Microbiology and Immunology laboratories at 984-974-1445.