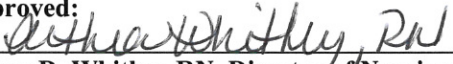
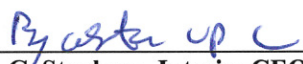




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| <b>Policy # 9025</b>  | <b>Throat Culture Collection</b>   |
| <b>Origination Date: February, 1998</b>   |  |
| <b>Revision Date: February 2004; March 27, 2006; July 20, 2007; January 28, 2009, July 28, 2016</b>                             |  |
| <b>Reviewed Date: February 2005, May 18, 2010, October 3, 2012, May 8, 2013</b>   |  |
| <b>Approved:</b>  |  |
| <br>Althea D. Whitley, RN, Director of Nursing | <br>Bryan G. Stephens, Interim CEO |

**PURPOSE:**

To ensure that each time a throat culture is ordered, it is obtained by a nurse and submitted for testing.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Wash hands, wear gloves, and explain procedure to the client.
2. Ask the client to open her/his mouth and stick out her/his tongue.
3. Shine a light into the client's throat, noting which areas appear inflamed, purulent, or ulcerated. Instruct client to close mouth.
4. Carefully remove the applicator swab from its tube (be sure the swab does not touch the outside of the tube).
5. Ask the client to open her/his mouth again and hold down the tongue with a tongue depressor. Keep the tongue from touching the swab. This keeps oral secretions and normal mouth microorganisms out of the specimen that can cause overgrowth on the culture.
6. Insert the swab into the client's mouth until it touches the inflamed, purulent, or ulcerated area.
7. Using a circular motion, firmly and quickly swab the infected area and remove the swab (be careful not to touch any other parts of the mouth with the swab).
8. Place the swab back into the tube (avoid touching the outside of the tube with the swab), and proceed as directed on the culture collection device.
9. Remove gloves and wash hands, label the specimen, fill out the appropriate lab slip, and place the specimen in the laboratory collection box immediately. NOTE: Do not refrigerate specimen.
10. Document the procedure in the client's clinical record.
11. The Hartmann Center uses an on-site test kit.