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Respiratory Point of Care Testing

Primary care offices have been approved to resume respiratory point-of-care testing if compliant with guidelines outlined below. PeopleSoft order numbers are also listed below for POC strep testing; please follow your current process for ordering. Influenza POC tests will not be available via PeopleSoft and must be ordered through Supply Chain. Currently, COVID-19 POC testing (Abbott ID NOW) has not been approved for use in primary care, but COVID-19 specimen collection within primary care clinics is an option for sites that will be seeing patients with ILI.

If you plan to reactivate respiratory POC testing at your practice, please contact:

- Northwestern Medical Group – Tom Nichols, Point of Care Coordinator
- Regional Medical Group – Cheryl Wiberg, Manager, Quality (Central DuPage Hospital)

Guidelines for POC testing

- Structure to be defined by clinic and staffing.
- All respiratory POC testing must be isolated to a space with a closed door, free of distractions, such as a dedicated exam room or soiled utility room.
- Traffic from the testing area should be eliminated; for example, the space should not be used for phlebotomy or medication storage.
- Respiratory testing should take place inside a Plexiglas box. Each box can hold one strep testing setup or two ID NOW devices.
- Specimen collection and testing are allowed to take place in the same space. Patients should remain at least 6 feet from the testing space.
- Full PPE should be worn.
 - Specimen collection: eye protection/goggles, surgical mask, gown and gloves
 - Specimen testing: eye protection/goggles, N-95 respirator, gown and gloves
 - **Reference the PPE grid on NM Interactive.**
- Always transport specimens via a biohazard bag.

Testing safety guidelines

- Gloves worn while working within the encasement are considered contaminated. Avoid touching materials outside of the encasement while wearing contaminated gloves.
- Materials immediately around the encasement should only be touched with gloved hands in case of unintentional contamination.

Workstation components

- Plexiglas encasement
- Small red biohazard waste bag
 - Purchase through Grainger on PeopleSoft
 - Item No. 8AUW0
- Any small box/bin
- Blue absorbent under pad
 - PeopleSoft No. 347810



Each Plexiglas box has enough space for two ID NOW devices (COVID-19/flu) and a stand for POC strep testing.

Workstation setup

- The absorbent pad lays flat. The encasement sits upon the absorbent pad. The small red biohazard bag sits towards the back of the encasement for contained disposal of appropriate materials.
 - Use when testing for COVID-19, influenza or strep A (ID NOW or Quidel)
- The ID NOW, Quidel Sofia or Quidel rapid test kits may sit in the same encasement.

Specimen collection components

- Additive-free tube
 - PeopleSoft No. 117110
- Biohazard sample bag
- Collection swabs
 - Influenza – included in test kit
 - Strep A – included in test kit
 - COVID-19 – nasopharyngeal swab, no liquid viral transport media (use additive-free tube for transport, no need to break the shaft of the nasopharyngeal swab for transport within the clinic)

PeopleSoft ordering information

- **Quidel QuickVue Dipstick Strep A Test – 50 tests/kit: 107845**
- **Quidel Sofia Strep A+ (CLIA waived version) – 25 tests/kit: 357299**
- **Quidel QuickVue In-Line Strep A Test – 25 tests/kit: 9063620**
- **Abbott ID NOW Rapid Strep A Test – 24 tests/kit: 364753**