

# Urine Culture Update



## **Change in reporting guidelines for Group B streptococcus (GBS, *S. agalactiae*)**

**Effective 08/20/2018**

Following the most current guidelines of the CDC and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, St. Luke's Laboratory has revised its policy regarding the reporting of Group B streptococcus in urine cultures of women who are of child-bearing age.

The latest recommendations state that Group B streptococcus, when found in urine cultures of pregnant women, should only be reported if isolated in quantities greater than or equal to  $10^4$  CFU/mL. Previously, GBS was reported when isolated in *any* quantity from this population.

Effective Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, St. Luke's Laboratory will indicate the presence of GBS in urine cultures from women of child-bearing age (12-50 years) whenever it is present in quantities equal to or exceeding 10,000 CFU/mL.

If you have questions, please contact Jon Steinhauer, MD, Microbiology Medical Director (218) 249-5749; Jennifer Berglund, Microbiology Technical Specialist (218) 249-5319; or Jennifer Viergutz, Laboratory Director (218) 249-5724.

See St. Luke's Laboratory Services Web page containing New Test Announcements:

<http://www.slhduluth.com/hospital/laboratory-services/>