

SECTION: NURSING

POLICY # 430 THROAT CULTURES

POLICY: Central Valley Health District will provide rapid strep throat cultures to test for Strep Throat.

PROCEDURE:

1. Client record will be completed per documentation policy.
2. Prior to test, inform client of the medical clinic policies regarding follow-up for treatment after a throat culture has been done at CVHD. *(Some clinics require an office visit prior to prescribing medication even though the test at CVHD was positive. To avoid duplication of tests, clients should be informed about what their personal medical facility will accept.)*
3. Each client will be individually assessed according to their symptoms. Throat cultures will not be done on clients who are currently taking oral antibiotics or have been off antibiotics less than 48 hours.
4. Culture results may not be available the day of testing, if the test is performed after 2 pm.
5. Explained throat culture test procedure to the client.
6. A rapid strep culturette will be utilized to swab the throat, obtain sufficient exudates from the tonsillar area.
7. Written information on sore throat cares will be provided to client or parent and reviewed. See attached form.
8. The culturette tube is taken to the Jamestown Hospital lab as soon as possible by a CVHD staff member.
9. Rapid strep test results are faxed to CVHD from the Jamestown Hospital lab once the test has been completed. The office nurse is responsible for follow up of daily throat culture results.
 - a. Negative or Positive results the client will be notified by phone. Messages may be left on answering machines if results are negative. **Every attempt will be made to reach the client/parent in person if the results are positive.**
 - b. If unable to contact client/parent of **positive** results by close of business (4:30 pm), the office nurse will send a note by mail to notify the client/parents of the positive results.
 - c. Tests are processed for 24 and 48 hour culture growth following the rapid test. Jamestown Hospital will notify CVHD with the results of the culture tests. **Tests that return as positive will be notified as outlined above for positive results.**
10. The client is responsible for contacting their physician and assuring that appropriate treatment is initiated for any positive result.