

Streptococcus Group A, Molecular Detection, PCR, Throat

*Notification Date: August 10, 2026
Effective Date: August 18, 2026*

Beginning August 18, 2026, ProMedica Bay Park, Charles and Virginia Hickman, Defiance, Flower, Fostoria, and Monroe Hospital Laboratories will offer *Streptococcus* Group A PCR testing on site.

All Strep A antigen testing will be discontinued.

Explanation: PCR tests have higher sensitivity (>95%–98% vs. 70%–90%), which significantly reduces false negatives compared to antigen tests, allowing detection of low bacterial loads early. Additionally, this PCR assay delivers definitive molecular results, allowing immediate, confident treatment decisions.

EPIC Order Code: LAB2522A

TEST ID: STPCR

Clinical Use: Aids in the rapid diagnosis Group A Streptococci infection through qualitative detection of Strep A DNA in throat specimens. This is a confirmation test.

Specimen Requirements

- **Source:** Throat Swab
- **Container:** E- Swab
- **Collection instructions:** Send to lab at room temperature.
- **STAT Acute Care TAT:** < 2 hours
- **CPT Code:** 87651

Specimen Stability

Temperature	Time
Room Temperature (15-30°C)	48 Hours
Refrigerated (2–8°C)	6 days

For questions or additional information, contact ProMedica Laboratories Customer Service: 419-291-4134