





MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 30, 2001

TO: Distribution List 1 - 6

FROM: Punam Verma, Ph.D.   
Assistant Director of Clinical Microbiology

Mary Hayden, M.D.   
Director, Clinical Microbiology

SUBJECT: Replacing Copan Liquid Stuarts Transport Swabs with BD CultureSwab and introduction of two new swabs

Copan Liquid Stuarts Transport, Dual Swabs (Red Cap) are being phased out. The exact same product will now be available under the BD CultureSwab brand label.

Two new swabs for the culture diagnosis of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* are being introduced. The transport medium used in the new swab systems should improve recovery of these fastidious pathogens.

The table shown below summarizes the changes.

Culture Swab Name	Color of Cap	SPD Item Number	Uses
BD CultureSwab	Red	2105020	Throat culture, routine aerobic culture of other sites of suspected infection IF NO OTHER SPECIMEN IS AVAILABLE*
**BD CultureSwab, Amies Gel w/o Charcoal Plastic Shaft	Blue	2105023	Diagnosis of bacterial vaginosis; culture of <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> from vaginal, cervical, rectal, or throat specimens
**BD CultureSwab Amies Gel w/o Charcoal Regular Aluminum Wire	Orange	2105024	Culture of <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> from male urethral specimens

\* When available, tissue or fluid specimens are always superior to swab specimens because the larger volume of material collected increases the likelihood of an accurate culture result.

\*\* Neither of these swabs should be used for the diagnosis of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* infection by DNA probe (Gen-Probe). Use the Gen-Probe® Collection device.

Any questions regarding this memo may be referred to Dr. Punam Verma at 2-3214.