



1. **Introduction.** Screening for GBS is best undertaken between 35-37 weeks. Two swabs need to be taken (lower vaginal and rectal – see below for instructions).

Screening packs can be requested from Mullhaven Medical Laboratory by telephoning 01234 831115 or e-mailing [info@mullhaven.co.uk](mailto:info@mullhaven.co.uk). Information on Mullhaven Medical Laboratory can be found at [www.mullhaven.co.uk](http://www.mullhaven.co.uk)



2. **GBS Screening Packs.** These contain:

- a. Two sterile swabs and transport medium
- b. Resealable sample bag
- c. Request form
- d. Postage paid "Jiffy" bag for posting samples back to the laboratory

3. **The Request Form.** Please ensure that the following details are completed on the request form:

- a. Patient's name, address and date of birth
- b. Name and full address, phone and/or fax number/e-mail address of Midwife and/or Obstetrician to whom results will be sent.
- c. Gestation (weeks)
- d. Date and time samples taken
- e. Any history of allergies to penicillin. This is important; if a patient is found to be carrying GBS then IV penicillin is the usual antibiotic of choice. If there is a history of reactions to penicillin, then the lab will need to put up a sensitivity panel to ascertain other antibiotics that can be used.

4. **Cost.** The cost of the test is £32.00 and includes any sensitivity testing that may need to be performed. Payment should accompany the samples. We can accept cheques or credit/debit cards (facility to authorise payments using credit/debit cards is available on the request form).

**Taking the sample**

- 5 Label swab tubes correctly by writing:
  - a. Name
  - b. Date of birth
  - c. Location of each swab (lower vaginal or rectal).
  - d. Date and time swabs taken

6. **Lower vaginal swab:**

- a. Remove swab from tube.
- b. Insert into lower vagina by not more than 2-4 cm. A speculum should not be used.
- c. Rub lower vagina gently with swab, round the front, sides and back of vagina.
- d. Withdraw swab and place in transport medium in the tube provided by Mullhaven Medical Laboratory.

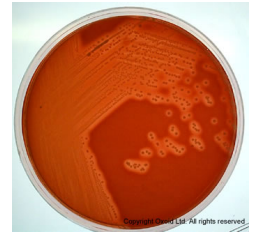
7. **Rectal Swab:**

- a. Remove swab from tube.
- b. Insert gently into the anus so that not more than 1-2cm of the swab is in the rectum.
- c. Withdraw swab and place in transport medium in the tube provided by Mullhaven Medical Laboratory.

8. Place swabs and request form in the sealable sample bag provided, seal then place into the post-paid padded reply envelope and post for return to Mullhaven Medical Laboratory. The result of the test will be available within 3 working days of receipt of swabs.

**Results**

9. Results will be sent to the referring healthcare professional. A copy will also be sent to the patient. Results can be faxed or e-mailed (please supply contact details) followed by hard copies in the post.



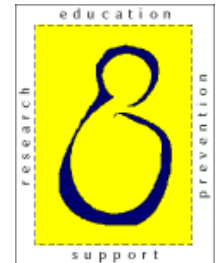
10. The report will show as either “**Group B Streptococci NOT isolated**” (this is a negative report) or “**Group B Streptococci isolated**” (this would be deemed a positive report).

**Further Information**

11. Further information and support regarding GBS can be found on the Group B Strep Support (GBSS) Website [www.gbss.org.uk](http://www.gbss.org.uk)

12. Group B Strep Support (GBSS) is a UK charity, founded in 1996. Their 3 main aims are to:

- a. Offer information and support to pregnant women and families affected by GBS.
- b. Inform health professionals and individuals how most GBS infections in newborn babies can be prevented.
- c. Generate continued support for research into preventing GBS infections.



Tel: 0870 803 0023

13. GBSS fully endorses the availability of reliable ante-natal GBS screening but has no links to nor receives any money from any particular laboratory. Indeed they hope many laboratories will offer this test and, as they do, they will provide details of their service