

June 17, 2026

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To: IH Physicians, Nurse Practitioners and Urgent Primary Care Clinics in the Okanagan Region, Revelstoke and Salmon Arm areas
From: Melinda Carrier, Health Service Director, Microbiology Working Group
 Dr. Bing Wang, Medical Microbiologist

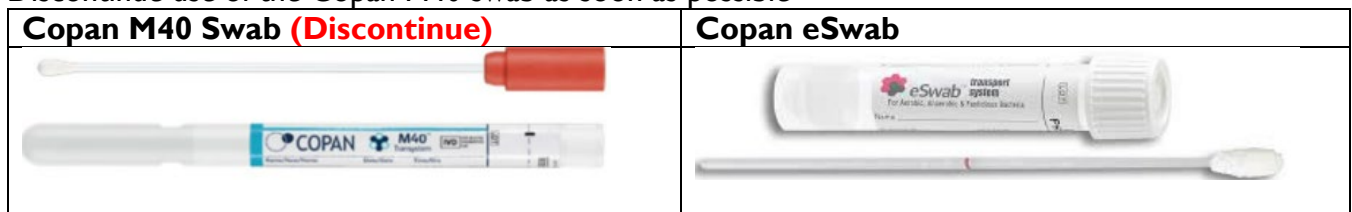
Re: Collection of eSwab Specimens for Bacterial Culture in the Okanagan Region, Revelstoke and Salmon Arm

Effective immediately, the Copan M40 clear gel swab will be phased out in the Okanagan region, Revelstoke and Salmon Arm and replaced by the Copan eSwab. The Copan eSwab has been in use in these areas since 2018.

The Copan eSwab is a liquid-based collection container that offers better organism recovery and faster processing due to compatibility with laboratory automation.

Important Information

- Swab specimens for bacterial culture testing are collected using the Copan eSwab, this includes:
 - routine superficial culture (e.g. wounds, genital, respiratory)
 - deep wound and OR/DI collected swabs
 - ARO/MDRO screens
- Discontinue use of the Copan M40 swab as soon as possible



- Instructions for use for the Copan eSwab are available on the IH Microbiology Public Website (www.interiorhealth.ca/microbiology): [eswab-collection-instruction-guide-bacterial-culture-specimens.pdf](#)
- For test-specific collection instructions, refer to the Microbiology Test Directory: [microbiology-guide-to-specimen-ordering-collection-and-transport-information.pdf](#)

Action Required

- IH facilities can order eSwabs from eRex: #1050773
- Recommend removing Copan M40 gel swabs (eRex #0430336) from Top-Up Inventory