Group A *Streptococcus pyogenes* Pharyngitis Guidelines
Washington State Clinical Laboratory Advisory Council

**Patient Characteristics:**
- Sudden onset of sore throat
- Tonsillitis with or without exudate
- Tender anterior cervical adenopathy
- History of fever, headache and/or abdominal pain

FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY
The individual clinician is in the best position to determine which tests are most appropriate for a particular patient.

*It is not recommended to do throat cultures on patients that have a negative rapid strep screen if their age is <3 or >15.*

![Diagram of diagnostic workflow](chart)

**NOTES:**
1. Routine culturing for asymptomatic family members are not indicated unless:
   a. History of Rheumatic Fever;
   b. "Ping Pong" spread of Group A Strep has been occurring within the family.
2. Other organisms such as Group C Strep, Group G Strep, and *Arachanobacterium haemolyticum* also can cause acute bacterial pharyngitis and are also beta hemolytic.

**REFERENCES:**

PUB #681-NonDOH (October 2015)