**Guidance: The following information can be used to complete the pharmacy’s standard operating procedure (SOP) for undertaking the OSOM® Strep A throat testing service. This SOP should be used in-line with other pharmacy SOPs.**

**Standard operating procedure: OSOM® Strep A throat testing service**

**SOP prepared by:**

**Position in pharmacy business:**

**Signature:**

**Date of preparation:**

**Purpose:** To ensure that the OSOM® Strep A throat testing service run by this pharmacy is operated in an organised and efficient way to provide a safe and effective service to patients.

**Scope:** The standard operating procedure covers the provision of the OSOM® Strep A throat testing service.

This SOP should be used in conjunction with the dedicated training slides available on the Connect2Pharma website at www.connect2pharma.co.uk.

**Providing the service**

1. Identify relevant patients with sore throats through over the counter consultations and sales, or following patient initiated requests
2. Ask appropriate questions to assess Centor score, if relevant
3. Offer testing to suitable patients
4. Direct the patient to the consultation room
5. Explain the service to the patient and ask the patient to sign a consent form
6. Prepare any relevant equipment to provide the test
7. Wash and dry hands and put on protective gloves
8. Take swab from the tonsils and/or back of the throat (avoid teeth, gums, tongue or cheek surfaces)
9. Add three drops of Reagent 1 (pink) and Reagent 2 in to the test tube (the solution should turn light yellow)
10. Place the swab in the tube immediately and vigorously mix the solution by rotating the swab forcefully against the swab at least ten times
11. Let the tube stand for one minute
12. Express as much liquid as possible from the swab by squeezing the sides of the tube as it is withdrawn
13. Place the absorbent end of the test stick in the sample in the tube and leave for a maximum of five minutes before reading result
14. Direct the patient to appropriate waiting facilities
15. Read the results
16. Inform the patient whether they have tested positive or negative for Strep A
17. Advise patients with a negative result on appropriate symptomatic relief, self-management and when to seek further advice
18. Advise patients with a positive result on appropriate symptomatic relief, self-management and to a prescriber for consideration for antibiotics
19. Fill out a GP letter for the patient, if appropriate
20. Make a record on the Patient Medication Record (PMR), if appropriate
21. Dispose of any equipment used appropriately (for example, in clinical waste)
22. File consent form and any associated paperwork appropriately and confidentially

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**Staff declaration**

**IMPORTANT:** The following declaration must be completed by all members of the pharmacy team involved in providing the service.

**Declaration:**

***I have read and understood this SOP and agree to implement the procedures set out in it when required.***

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| **Date** | **Full name** | **Qualification** | **GPhC number** | **Signature** |
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