

ABSTRACT

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“Current Best Practices for Respiratory Virus Testing” by Christine Ginocchio and Alexander J. MacAdam

In the September, 2011 Journal of Clinical Microbiology, COPAN’s flocked swabs were cited as an important advance in testing for respiratory viruses. The article “Current Best Practices for Respiratory Virus Testing” by Christine Ginocchio and Alexander J. MacAdam considers many current issues in diagnostic testing for respiratory viruses including best methods for detection, sample handling, testing for antiviral resistance and monitoring the performance of diagnostic tests. The goal of the discussion by the authors and the working group which contributed was to come to a consensus on the best practices for respiratory virus testing and to raise questions for further consideration.

Among the topics outlined in the article was the appropriate sample collection, transport and storage. As noted in the article, there are several upper respiratory tract samples available for testing, including nasopharyngeal (NP) washes, NP aspirates, and NP swabs. The authors and working group involved with the Best Practices article concluded that COPAN’s nasopharyngeal flocked swabs have been found to yield specimens comparable to NP washes for detection of respiratory viruses by NAAT or DNA.