Invasive group A Streptococcus (GAS) illnesses are identified by isolation of Streptococcus pyogenes by culture from normally sterile sites (e.g. blood, CSF, pleural fluid) or culture from any site when necrotizing fasciitis or toxic shock syndrome is present.

Clinical syndrome manifestations of invasive GAS infections include necrotizing fasciitis, toxic shock syndrome, septic arthritis, bacteremia, pneumonia and puerperal sepsis.

Persons at increased risk of invasive GAS infections include those who are elderly, immunosuppressed, or have chronic illnesses like cancer and diabetes, or have skin lesions (such as cuts, chickenpox, or surgical wounds).