ALBERTA PRECISION LABORATORIES
Leaders in Laboratory Medicine

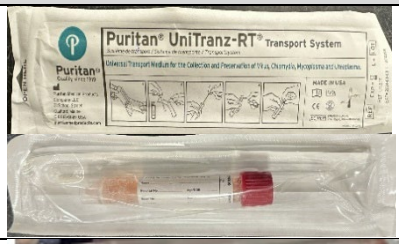
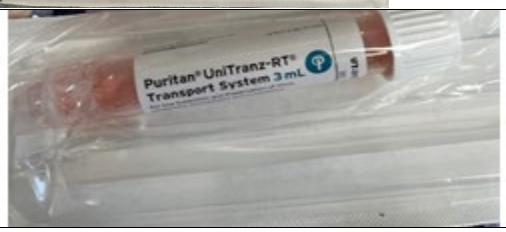
Laboratory Bulletin

DATE:	9 December 2024
TO:	All Healthcare Providers
FROM:	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) Public Health Laboratory
RE:	**Universal/Viral Transport Medium Collection Kit Transition**

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- Effective immediately, the current Puritan UniTranz-RT Universal transport medium (UTM)/viral transport medium (VTM) collection kits (red cap) will transition to a new product (white cap).
- Both products are acceptable to use when collecting swabs for virus and syphilis nucleic acid testing.

	Product name	Product Number	Oracle Number	Unit of measure	Product appearance
Current product (red cap)	SWAB NASOPHARYNGEAL FLOCKED IN VIAL W/3ML UNIVERSAL TRANSPORT MEDIA	UT-317	398170	Each	
New Product (white cap)	SWAB NASOPHARYNGEAL FLOCKED IN VIAL NON-CENTERING W/3ML UNIVERSAL TRANSPORT MEDIA	UT-317 NC	404422	Each	

Background

- UTM/VTM is used when collecting swabs for virus and syphilis nucleic acid testing (NAT/PCR). This includes respiratory viruses (such as SARS-CoV-2, influenza, RSV), mumps, measles, and viruses causing skin and mucosal lesions or eye infections (such as HSV, VZV, Mpox, and enterovirus).

How this will impact you

- Collect swabs for virus and syphilis nucleic acid testing (NAT/PCR) using Puritan UniTranz-RT Universal transport medium.

Action Required

- For the testing of respiratory viruses, mumps and measles, order the Puritan UniTranz-RT UTM kit **Oracle #404422**.
- Conversion of your current UTM collection kits will be automatically occurring on supply carts. Please work with your local CPSM Site Services staff.

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Effective Immediately

Questions/Concerns

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- Dr. Byron Berenger, Medical Microbiologist, Public Health Laboratory, APL (byron.berenger@aplabs.ca)
- Maria Falsetti, Director, Provincial Laboratory for Public Health, APL (Maria.Falsetti@aplabs.ca)

Approved by

- Dr. Graham Tipples, Medical/Scientific Director, Public Health Laboratory, APL