



Date: November 3, 2020
To: All Zones: Physicians, nurses, healthcare practitioners
From: Alberta Precision Laboratories and DynaLIFE DX
Re: APTIMA collection kit shortage for Chlamydia and gonorrhea testing in Alberta

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Key Message:

- APTIMA® swabs and urine collection kit supplies for *Chlamydia trachomatis* (CT) and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (GC) nucleic acid testing (NAT) are critically low in Alberta.
- Effective immediately, clinicians are asked to prioritize CT/GC testing to maintain collection kits for high risk individuals.

Why this is important:

- Although APTIMA® swabs are no longer required for COVID-19 testing in Alberta, the global demand on supply chain associated with the COVID-19 pandemic have affected the manufacturers ability to produce APTIMA® swabs and urine collection kits.
- APTIMA® swabs and urine collection kits are currently the only collection devices available for CT/GC NAT in Alberta. These shortages are expected to persist through the winter into 2021.

Action required:

- To efficiently utilize limited provincial collection kit resources physicians should consider prioritizing CT/GC testing as following:
 - 1) **Continue testing of symptomatic individuals with a clinical presentation consistent with a STI** (i.e., vaginitis, cervicitis, Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID), urethritis, proctitis)
 - 2) **Continue testing the following asymptomatic individuals:**
 - pregnant women as per [Alberta Prenatal Screening guidelines](#)
 - Men or women with new, anonymous, or multiple partners
 - 3) **Stop testing low risk individuals** (i.e. CT/GC screen as part of annual PAP testing, individuals in monogamous relationships)
 - 4) **Limit test of cure (TOC)** for CT/GC to pregnant women and children and individuals with suspected treatment failure or antimicrobial resistance. For suspected GC resistance, an Amies or charcoal swab for culture should also be submitted.
 - 5) **Consider extending interval times between screening in asymptomatic individuals at risk**, i.e., extended screening intervals for extragenital testing in PrEP clients every 6 months.
 - 6) Consider empiric treatment as per [Alberta Treatment Guidelines for STIs](#) for asymptomatic contacts to confirmed CT /GC cases **without** simultaneous CT/ GC testing.
- Sites may receive a different swab collection kits than what was ordered. Refer to the [APL Test Directory](#) for your zone or the Dynalife Test Directory (<https://www.dynalife.ca/testdirectory>) for more information.
- Follow specific zone recommendations as the situation evolves.



Inquiries and Feedback

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This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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