

DATE:	4 March 2024
TO:	Care Providers at Chinook and Medicine Hat, Red Deer, Grande Prairie, and Northern Lights Regional Hospitals
FROM:	Alberta Precision Labs (APL)
RE:	Changes to Bacterial Vaginosis, vulvovaginal candidiasis and <i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i> test methods and testing location

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Key Message

- **Effective March 11, 2024**, antigen testing for *Trichomonas vaginalis* (TV) will be replaced with a standalone TV nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT). Bacterial vaginosis (BV)/yeast microscopy will be replaced by a Vaginitis Screen NAAT. The Vaginitis Screen includes three targets: BV, TV and vulvovaginal candidiasis (CV).
- For both NAAT tests Aptima collection devices must be used (see table on next page). The current Amies or Eswabs cannot be used for this new NAAT testing. If Amies or Eswabs are received, microscopy/antigen testing will be performed until April 8, 2024, afterwards orders will be cancelled, and recollection will be necessary.
- NAAT testing will be performed at the APL Calgary Diagnostic and Scientific Center Laboratory for Chinook and Medicine Hat Hospitals and APL Edmonton Base Laboratory for Red Deer, Grande Prairie and Northern Lights Regional Hospitals. These are the same locations where *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (CT/GC) testing is performed for each Regional hospital.
- When the Vaginitis Screen is ordered all three components (BV/CV/TV) will be tested and individually reported as positive or negative. BV/yeast will no longer be available as a standalone test.
- Standalone TV testing by NAAT will also be available for vaginal, endocervical and first-catch urine specimens.

Why this is important

- After April 8, 2024, Amies or Eswabs received for Vaginitis Screens and/or TV testing will not be processed.

Action Required



- Review information on the next page and the test directory for more details on these tests.
- Work with CPSM local site representatives to ensure appropriate Aptima swabs are available on supply carts:
- **For the Vaginitis Screen**
 - Use the Aptima Multitest Swab to collect a vaginal swab for the Vaginitis Screen.

Collection Devices for Vaginitis Screen (Bacterial vaginosis, Candida, Trichomonas)		
Source: vagina	Aptima Multitest Swab Specimen Collection Kit	





- Use the Vaginitis Screen (Lab4055) test order in Connect Care.
 - To simplify sample collection, if both the Vaginitis Screen and Chlamydia/Gonorrhea Screen (CT/GC Screen) are ordered from a vaginal source, collect and send **ONE** vaginal Aptima Multitest Swab.
 - Print and label tube with both test orders (Vaginitis Screen and CT/GC screen)
 - Routine asymptomatic screening for vaginitis is not recommended.
 - For patients 13 years of age and younger the Vaginitis Screen will not be performed. For these patients, order a genital culture and submit an Amies or ESwab specimen. *T. vaginalis* testing for this age group may be ordered as a stand-alone test using Aptima swabs (females)/urine (all patients).
- **For *Trichomonas vaginalis* screen**
 - If standalone TV testing is required, collect specimen using appropriate Aptima collection device for source outlined below. If CT/GC also required, CT/GC and TV can be tested from the same specimen:

Collection Devices and sources for <i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i> screen		
Source: vagina	Aptima Multitest Swab Specimen Collection Kit	
Source: endocervical	Aptima Unisex Swab Specimen Collection Kit	
Source: urine	first-catch urine (first 30 ml) into sterile container	

- Use the *Trichomonas vaginalis* screen (LAB1380) test order in Connect Care.
 - If ordering both TV and CTGC testing, print and label tube with both test orders
- Continue to use Amies swabs (or Eswabs) for genital culture and yeast culture requests. Refer to the test directory for required clinical indications.

Questions/ Concerns

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- Dr. Julie Carson, Medical Microbiologist, APL, Calgary (julie.carson@aplabs.ca)
- Dr. Thomas Griener, Medical Microbiologist, APL, Regional Labs (thomas.griener@aplabs.ca)
- Dr. Natalia Solomon, Medical Microbiologist, APL, Edmonton (natalia.solomon@aplabs.ca)

Approved by

- Dr. Byron Berenger, Provincial Microbiology Section Chief, APL
- Dr. Carolyn O’Hara, Interim Chief Medical Officer, APL

Effective September 1, 2023, APL has become the sole provider of all public lab services in Alberta. As a result, community lab services formally provided by DynaLIFE Medical Labs will become the responsibility of Alberta Precision Labs (APL). This change impacts all zones.