

DATE:	4 March 2024
TO:	Care Providers in Calgary and South Health Zone Hospitals and Community (except Chinook and Medicine Hat Regional Hospitals)
FROM:	Alberta Precision Labs – Calgary
RE:	Launch of a Molecular Vaginitis Screen in Calgary and South Zones

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- **Effective March 11, 2024**, the APL - Calgary Diagnostic and Scientific Centre Microbiology Laboratory will replace microscopy for bacterial vaginosis/yeast (BV/yeast) with the Vaginitis Screen, a nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) panel diagnosing three causes of vaginitis: bacterial vaginosis (BV), vulvovaginal candidiasis (CV), and *Trichomonas vaginalis* (TV).
- **The Aptima Multitest Swab must be used to collect a vaginal specimen for the Vaginitis Screen.**
 - If the Chlamydia/Gonorrhea (CT/GC) Screen is also ordered from a vaginal source, collect and send ONE vaginal Aptima Multitest Swab.
- Until April 8, 2024, if an Aptima Multitest vaginal swab is not received but a vaginal ESwab is, BV/yeast will be performed using microscopy. After this time, ESwabs for BV/yeast will not be processed.
- When the Vaginitis Screen is ordered, all three components (BV/CV/TV) will be tested and individually reported as positive or negative.
- The Vaginitis Screen is NOT appropriate for patients **13 years of age and younger**.
- Continue to use ESwabs for genital bacterial and yeast culture. Refer to the test directory for required clinical indications.



How This Will Impact You

- The Vaginitis Screen will provide a diagnosis for the most common causes of vaginitis from a single vaginal swab (Aptima Multitest Swab).
- The Vaginitis Screen will be run daily and improve turnaround times for BV/yeast test results.
- Stand-alone testing for *Trichomonas vaginalis* is still available and will be performed from Aptima swabs (females) or urine (all patients), alone or in combination with CT/GC Screen when requested.

Action Required

- **To Order the Vaginitis Screen (effective March 11, 2024):**
 - In the community, use the **new Microbiology Requisition – 20571** (<https://www.albertapubliclabs.ca/hp/Page13849.aspx>).
 - At AHS sites, use the Vaginitis Screen (Lab4055) test order on Connect Care. This is the same order used to request the current Bacterial vaginosis/yeast screen test.
- **Collect a vaginal swab using the Aptima Multitest Swab Specimen Collection kits**
 - 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).



- **Aptima Multitest Swab Collection Kit Supply**

- Community: order through the DynaLIFE Physician Supply Portal (<https://orders.dynalife.ca>):

Product #	Description
1S0093	APTIMA MULTITEST COLLECTION SWAB KIT 

- Acute care (hospital, urgent care) and AHS sites: order Multitest swab for supply carts. Work with local CPSM site Services staff.
- **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 ESwab specimen. *T. vaginalis* testing for this age group may be ordered as a stand-alone test using Aptima swabs (females)/urine (all patients).
- Routine asymptomatic screening for vaginitis is not recommended.
- Refer to and review the Test Directory <https://www.dynalife.ca/testdirectory> for test performance and other details on:
 - Vaginitis Screen
 - Trichomonas *vaginalis* screen (Calgary/South)
 - Chlamydia and Gonorrhea screen (Calgary/South)

Questions/Concerns

- Jenette Bourbonnie, Manager Core Lab, APL, Calgary jenette.bourbonnie@albertaprecisionlabs.ca
- Dr. Julie Carson, Medical Microbiologist, APL, Calgary julie.carson@albertaprecisionlabs.ca

Approved by

- Dr. Dylan Pillai, Medical Director, APL South Sector

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.