ALBERTA PRECISION LABORATORIES
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DynaLIFE MEDICAL LABS

Laboratory Bulletin

DATE:	2022 June 27
TO:	Care Providers in Edmonton, North, and Central Zones (Wainwright Health Centre, Vermilion Health Centre, and Westlock Healthcare Centre)
FROM:	DynaLIFE Medical Labs and Alberta Precision Laboratories
RE:	**Launch of Molecular Assay for *Trichomonas vaginalis* (only applicable to locations that send testing to DynaLIFE)**

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Key Message

- Effective **July 11, 2022**, DynaLIFE will implement the Aptima® *Trichomonas vaginalis* molecular assay for the diagnosis of *Trichomonas vaginalis* (TV) in **adult women.** This is a change from the current microscopy-based approach and requires a **change in collection device.**
- Testing for TV may be combined with testing for *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (CT/NG) on the same sample.
- Male urethral samples **cannot** be tested by the Aptima® molecular TV assay and will continue to be tested by microscopy.

Acceptable Specimen Types

Patient	Test	Specimen Type*	Acceptable Collection Device
Female	TV (with or without CT/NG)	Vaginal swab	Aptima® MultiTest Swab
Female	TV (with or without CT/NG)	Endocervical swab	Aptima® Unisex Swab
Female	TV (with or without CT/NG)	Urine	Aptima® Urine Collection Kit
Male	TV	Urethral	Gel swab or ESwab™
Pediatric: under 14 years	TV	All	Gel swab or ESwab™

** Only clinician-collected swabs are acceptable*

How this will impact you

- There is a significant improvement in test sensitivity and specimen stability using this molecular method.
- Specimens collected in APTIMA® device can be refrigerated or kept at room temperature and are stable for many days. Prompt submission for molecular testing within 7 days of collection is advised.
- Molecular testing cannot be performed from specimens collected in Gel swabs or ESwab™ and requests on these samples will need to be recollected.
- There is no change to testing or collection requirements for TV or CT/NG for males and pediatric patients. Prompt submission within 24 hours of collection and keeping the samples at room temperature is advised as this test is time sensitive.

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Background

- *Trichomonas vaginalis* is the most common curable non-viral sexually transmitted disease (STD) agent worldwide, with an estimated 170-million new cases occurring globally. Because TV is not reportable to Public Health in Canada, the Canadian data on incidence and prevalence has not been well established. From an internal surveillance study performed at DynaLIFE in 2012 using the Aptima® TV molecular assay, it was estimated that the prevalence of TV was at 2-3% of all vaginal and cervical swabs in the Edmonton Zone.
- Detection of TV has historically been technically challenging with sensitivity of test methods highly dependent on the rapid transport and testing in the lab. Molecular assays demonstrate significantly better sensitivity than traditional microscopic methods and are stable during transport for several days.

Action Required

- For *Trichomonas vaginalis (*and/or CT/NG*)* testing on women, use an Aptima® collection swab or refer patients to a Patient Care Centre for urine collection.
- Please use the DynaLIFE General Lab Requisition instead of the Microbiology Requisition to order TV by molecular method (for females over 14 years of age).
- There is no change to testing or collection requirements for men or pediatric patients.
- Aptima® Unisex and MultiTest swabs may be ordered through your existing lab supply ordering process.

Questions/Concerns

- Dr. Mao-Cheng Lee, Medical Microbiologist, DynaLIFE Medical Labs at Mao Cheng.Lee@dynalife.ca or (780) 451-3702 ext. 8365
- The DynaLIFE Medical Microbiologist On-Call at (780) 451-3702

Approved by

- Dr. Erene Farag, Medical Director, DynaLIFE Medical Labs
- Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Chief Medical Laboratory Officer, Alberta Precision Laboratories