

DATE:	3 October 2023
TO:	Care Providers in Edmonton, North, and Central Zones
FROM:	DynaLIFE Medical Labs
RE:	Launch of molecular Vaginitis Screen & Updates to <i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i> testing (only applicable to locations sending testing to DynaLIFE Edmonton)

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Key Message

- **Effective October 17, 2023, DynaLIFE's Edmonton Laboratory** will replace microscopy for bacterial vaginosis/yeast with the Vaginitis Screen, a nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) panel comprised of 3 diagnostic targets [bacterial vaginosis (BV), vulvovaginal candidiasis (CV), and *Trichomonas vaginalis* (TV)]
- **The Aptima® Multitest Swab must now be used to collect a vaginal swab for the Vaginitis Screen.**
- When the Vaginitis Screen is ordered all three components (BV/CV/TV) will be tested and reported.
- **After December 12, 2023, ESwabs will NO LONGER be accepted for BV/Yeast testing.**
- Continue to use ESwabs for genital culture and yeast culture requests. Note that requests for these cultures, as before, require appropriate clinical history included with the order. Refer to the *DynaLIFE* test directory for further details.
- The Vaginitis Screen is only appropriate for patients **14 years of age and older**. For younger patients, please submit an ESwab for genital culture, as above.
- To simplify sample collection, if both the Vaginitis Screen and Chlamydia/Gonorrhea Screen (CT/GC Screen) are ordered, please collect and send **ONE** vaginal Aptima® Multitest Swab.
- Testing for *Trichomonas vaginalis* in children and male adults on urine (female, male, children) or on Aptima® swabs (female adult, female child) is now accepted for the Aptima *Trichomonas vaginalis* Assay. Please direct your patient to a Patient Service Centre for collection and testing.

How this will impact you

- The Vaginitis Screen will provide a diagnosis for the most common agents of vaginitis from a single vaginal swab (Aptima® Multitest Swab).
- We expect a significant improvement in turn-around time for the diagnosis of BV/yeast/*Trichomonas*.
- Testing for *Trichomonas vaginalis* may still be ordered separately and will be performed from Aptima® swabs (female adult, female child) or urine (female, male, children), alone or in combination with CT/NG Screen requests for all patients.



Action Required

- **Community providers in the Edmonton, Central, and North Zones:**
 - Order the Vaginitis Screen using the interim Molecular Genitourinary & STI Requisition (downloadable through the DynaLIFE.ca/Requisitions webpage). Note that the CT/NG Screen may be ordered on this requisition as well.
- **Care providers in other Zones (including Grande Prairie Regional Hospital, Northern Lights Regional Health Centre and Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre):**
 - No changes to the current process.
- **Connect Care sites:**
 - Order the test using the Vaginitis Screen orderable in Connect Care.
- **Collect vaginal swab specimens using the Aptima® Multitest Swab:**
 - Swabs can be ordered through the existing lab supply ordering process.
- **For patients <14 years of age:**
 - The Vaginitis Screen is not recommended and will not be performed. For these patients, order a genital culture and submit an ESwab specimen. *Trichomonas vaginalis* testing for this age group may be ordered as a stand-alone test using Aptima® swabs (female adult, female child)/urine (female, male, children).

Acceptable Specimen Types:

Test	Indications	Specimen Source*	Acceptable Collection Device
Vaginitis Screen (BV/CV/TV)* (≥14 y female only)	vaginitis symptoms, vaginal discharge	Vaginal swab	Aptima® Multitest Swab*
Chlamydia/Gonorrhea Screen (CT/NG)*†	annual screening, routine screening during pregnancy, prenatal screening, test of cure	Vaginal swab (preferred for female adult, female child)	Aptima® Multitest Swab*
		Endocervical, Urethral, Eye	Aptima® Unisex Swab
		Urine (first-catch) (female, male, children)	Aptima® Urine Collection Kit#
Rectal, Throat	Aptima® Multitest Swab		
Trichomonas vaginalis Screen (TV)*†	vaginitis symptoms, urethritis symptoms, asymptomatic at-risk individuals	Vaginal swab (preferred for female adult, female child)	Aptima® Multitest Swab
		Endocervical	Aptima® Unisex Swab
		Urine (first-catch) (female, male, children)	Aptima® Urine Collection Kit
Genital Culture (Female)	Refer to Test Directory for indications	Vaginal swab	Copan ESwab™
Yeast Culture (female)		Vaginal swab	Copan ESwab™

*If both Vaginitis Screen and CT/NG screening required for adult females, collecting ONE vaginal swab using Aptima Multitest Swab will suffice.

†If only CT/NG and TV screening are required, collect one specimen using the appropriate Aptima collection device for that patient.

For Edmonton locations, refer patients to the Patient Service Centers (PSC) for collection.



Questions/Concerns

- The Edmonton APL Community Lab Services Medical Microbiologist On-Call at (780) 451-3702
- Dr. Mao-Cheng Lee, Medical Microbiologist, APL Community Lab Services at Mao-Cheng.Lee@dynalife.ca or (780) 451-3702 ext. 8365
- Dr. Natalia Solomon, Medical Microbiologist, APL Community Lab Services at Natalia.Solomon@dynalife.ca or (780) 451-3702 ext. 8167
- Dr. Robert Verity, Microbiologist Lead, APL Community Lab Services at Bob.Verity@dynalife.ca or (780) 451-3702 ext. 8157
- Dr. Wilson Chan, Microbiologist Director, APL Community Lab Services at Wilson.Chan@dynalife.ca

Approved by

- Dr. Erene Farag, Medical Director, APL Community Lab Services.

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.