

<b>DATE:</b>	6 February 2023
<b>TO:</b>	Care Providers in <b>North and Central Zones</b> (excluding regional hospitals in Grande Prairie, Fort McMurray, and Red Deer)
<b>FROM:</b>	DynaLIFE Medical Labs and Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Molecular Assay for <i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i>, Transition to ESwabs, and Specimen Collection for Urine Culture (only applicable to testing sent to DynaLIFE)</b>

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**PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE**

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**Key Message**

- Transition of community testing to *DynaLIFE* Hub Lab in Edmonton from North and Central Zone communities occurred on December 5, 2022.
- Some collection devices have changed to support testing using *DynaLIFE* methodologies and platforms.
- Consult the *DynaLIFE* [Test Directory](#) for detailed information, for general information see [www.dynaLIFE.ca](http://www.dynaLIFE.ca)

**Actions Required**

**TRICHOMONAS VAGINALIS TESTING**

- In July 2022, *DynaLIFE* implemented the Aptima® *Trichomonas vaginalis* molecular assay for the diagnosis of *Trichomonas vaginalis* (TV) in **adult women**. This adjustment required a **change in collection device**.
- Testing for TV in adult women may be combined with testing for *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (CT/NG) on the same sample.
- Male urethral samples or samples from children **cannot** be tested by the Aptima® molecular TV assay and will continue to be tested by microscopy. Prompt submission in ESwab™ within 24 hours of collection (kept at room temperature) is advised as this test is time sensitive.
- Specimens collected in APTIMA® device are stable when kept refrigerated or at room temperature for several days. Prompt submission for molecular testing within 7 days of collection is advised.
- 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).

**TRANSITION TO ESWAB™ SYSTEM FOR MICROBIOLOGY SPECIMENS**

- The ESwab™ (*ESwab™ Liquid-Based Multipurpose Collection and Transportation System*) has **replaced** conventional gel and other transport media (M40 Transystem Amies Gel, with and without charcoal, and COPAN Liquid Amies) for routine cultures. **Discontinue use of the routine gel (and other) swabs immediately.**
- ESwab™ is **required** for molecular testing of *Streptococcus* Group A and *Arcanobacterium haemolyticum* in acute pharyngitis.
- APL will supply ESwab™ to community hospital sites located in North and Central Zones.
- DynaLIFE will supply ESwab™ to community medical clinics.
- Red Deer Regional Hospital and Grande Prairie Regional Hospital will not transition to ESwab™ at this time.

**URINE CULTURE SPECIMEN COLLECTION**

- For accurate urine culture results, the ideal specimen is a fresh urine sample transferred immediately to the BD Vacutainer tube which contains boric acid preservative. Fresh urine specimens not in preservative must be refrigerated and processed **within 2 hours of collection** to avoid overgrowth of organisms and preserve growth of uropathogens. Boric acid preservative extends this timeframe to 48 hours.
- Use of the BD Vacutainer (grey-top) C&S preservative tube is recommended. Fresh urine should be transferred to this tube without delay.
- Midstream urine specimens for C&S **not in preservative will be cancelled.**



**ACCEPTABLE SPECIMENS, COLLECTION DEVICES AND ORDERING INFORMATION**

Patient	Test	Specimen Type*	Acceptable Collection Device	DynaLIFE Order Item #	Unacceptable Collection Device (Reject)
Female	TV (with or without CT/NG Screen)	Vaginal*	Aptima® MultiTest	<b>1S0093</b> (APTIMA MULTITEST COLLECTION KIT ORANGE)	ESwab™
		Endocervical*	Aptima® Unisex	<b>1S0047</b> (KIT, APTIMA COMBO 2 SWAB)	ESwab™
		Urine	Aptima® Urine Collection Kit	<b>1S0040</b> (APTIMA URINE SPECIMEN COLLECTION SYSTEM)	Fresh Urine or Preserved Urine
Male (Adult/Child)	TV	Urethral*	ESwab™	<b>1S0118</b> [ESWAB (FOR MICROBIOLOGY SAMPLES ONLY)]	Aptima®
	CT/NG Screen	Urethral*	Aptima® Unisex	<b>1S0047</b> (KIT, APTIMA COMBO 2 UNISEX SWAB)	ESwab™ only NG culture
Female Child (< 14 years)	TV	All	ESwab™	<b>1S0118</b> [ESWAB (FOR MICROBIOLOGY SAMPLES ONLY)]	Aptima®
	CT/NG Screen	Vaginal*	Aptima® MultiTest	<b>1S0093</b> (APTIMA MULTITEST COLLETION KIT ORANGE)	ESwab™
ALL	CT/NG Screen	Rectal, Throat, Eye	Aptima® MultiTest	<b>1S0093</b> (APTIMA MULTITEST COLLETION KIT ORANGE)	ESwab™ only NG culture
		Urine	Aptima® Urine Collection Kit	<b>1S0040</b> (APTIMA URINE SPECIMEN COLLECTION SYSTEM)	Fresh or Preserved Urine
<b>MICROBIOLOGY CULTURE RELATED</b>					
ALL	General culture	All	ESwab™	<b>1S0118</b> [ESWAB (FOR MICROBIOLOGY SAMPLES ONLY)]	Non-ESwab™
ALL	Urine culture	Urine	BD Vacutainer preservative tube	<b>1P0008</b> [URINE TRANSFER STRAW] <b>1P0011</b> [BD GREY-TOP URINE C&S TUBE]	Fresh urine (with no preservative)
ALL	Acute Pharyngitis Screen (NAAT)	Throat	ESwab™	<b>1S0118</b> [ESWAB (FOR MICROBIOLOGY SAMPLES ONLY)]	Other Gel Swabs

**Ordering Supplies**

- Lab collection supplies for community providers may be ordered on [DynaLIFE Supply Ordering Portal](#)

**Effective** Immediately

**Questions/Concerns can be directed to**

- Dr. Robert Verity, Interim Microbiologist lead, *DynaLIFE* at [Bob.Verity@dynalife.ca](mailto:Bob.Verity@dynalife.ca) or (780) 451-3702 ext. 8157
- Dr. Mao-Cheng Lee, Medical Microbiologist, *DynaLIFE* at [Mao-Cheng.Lee@dynalife.ca](mailto:Mao-Cheng.Lee@dynalife.ca) or (780) 451-3702 ext. 8365
- The *DynaLIFE* Medical Microbiologist On-Call at (780) 451-3702
- Materials Management Direct Line: **(587) 686-3454**

**Approved by**

- Tamara Stock, Vice President, Analytical Operations, DynaLIFE Medical Labs
- Dr. Erene Farag, Provincial Medical Director, DynaLIFE Medical Labs
- Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Interim Chief Medical Laboratory Officer, Alberta Precision Laboratories