

DATE:	3 February 2023
TO:	South Zone Physicians, Clinicians, Clinics, and Nursing Units
FROM:	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) and DynaLIFE Medical Laboratories
RE:	New Method and Specimen Collection for <i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i> testing in South Zone

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Key Message

- Effective **Feb. 7, 2023**, *Trichomonas vaginalis* (TV) testing from South Zone community and hospital sites, excluding Chinook Regional Hospital (CRH) and Medicine Hat Regional Hospital (MHRH), will change from antigen testing to nucleic acid amplification testing (NAAT) performed in Calgary.
- Requests received for TV testing from these sites **must** be collected using Aptima® Multitest or Unisex Swabs (same as for chlamydia/gonorrhea testing; see Table 1) or initial void urine, **NOT** the current Amies gel swab (pink-top) or ESwab.
- **Effective Feb. 27**, Amies swabs and ESwabs received for TV testing **will be cancelled**.
- Until Feb. 26, if an Amies gel swab is received for TV testing, antigen testing will be performed.
- Bacterial vaginosis (BV)/yeast testing is not changing at this time. A separate Amies swab or ESwab must be collected when ordering BV/yeast at the same time as TV testing.
- CRH and MHRH sites will not experience any changes in testing, collection, and ordering.

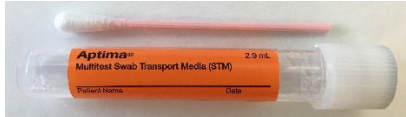

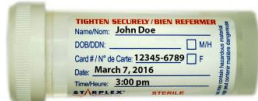

Why this is important

- TV NAAT provides higher analytical sensitivity than the previous antigen test. It will be performed on the same platform at the same location as CT/GC is tested currently.
- This platform is incompatible with ESwabs and Amies gel swabs currently used in South Zone.

Action required

- For South Zone community clinics and South Zone hospitals other than CRH and MHRH:
 - Until Feb. 26, continue using the [APL Microbiology Regional Requisition \(20571\)](#) for outpatient TV requests. Indicate the specimen source for TV testing clearly on the requisition, especially if the source is not vaginal. Updated communications regarding new requisitions and inventory ordering will follow in February.
 - If CT/GC testing is also required, CT/GC can be ordered on the same specimen and requisition (e.g., one vaginal Multitest swab can be used to test CT/GC and TV). Ensure that the source for TV and CT/GC match on the requisition.
 - For Meditech sites, use test code **TRICHVAGROV1** to order the Trichomonas NAAT.
- For CRH and MHRH: specimens for TV testing should continue to be collected using Amies swabs and on-site testing will continue to be performed using the TV antigen test. Continue to order in Meditech using test code TRICHVAG.

Table 1 - Collection Devices Acceptable for Trichomonas vaginalis NAAT

<p>Vagina (preferred specimen for women)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the Aptima® Multitest Swab Specimen Collection Kit (pink swab, orange label). CT/GC and TV can be performed on a single specimen. 		
<p>Cervix/Endocervix/Urethral</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the Aptima® Unisex Swab Specimen Collection Kit (blue swab, white label). CT/GC and TV can be performed on a single specimen. 		
<p>Urine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For females: collect first-void urine (maximum 30 mL) into sterile orange-top container. For males: collect first-void urine specimen (maximum 30 mL) into sterile white-top 30 mL container. 	 <p>30 ml container with white lid for men</p>	 <p>90 ml container with orange lid</p>

References

- For more information, refer to: [APL Test Directory, Trichomonas vaginalis NAAT: https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/webapps/labservices/indexAPL.asp?id=8476&tests=&zoneid=1&details=true](https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/webapps/labservices/indexAPL.asp?id=8476&tests=&zoneid=1&details=true)

Inquiries and Feedback

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This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by

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