

Date: May 23, 2013

To: South Zone – Lethbridge and Central Zone – Drumheller, Hanna and Three Hills
Physicians, Nurses, Laboratory Directors and Managers

From: AHS Laboratory Services and Calgary Laboratory Services (CLS)

Re: Transition of *Chlamydia trachomatis* (CT) and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (GC) Testing

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

- Effective June 3, 2013, all testing for *Chlamydia trachomatis* (CT) and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (GC) currently performed at Chinook Regional Health Centre Laboratory (CRH - Lethbridge) as well as those samples collected in Drumheller, Hanna and Three Hills will be referred to Calgary Laboratory Services. Testing will be performed using the GEN-PROBE APTIMA COMBO2[®] on the TIGRIS[®] platform.
- Collection for these tests will still be done locally. **To avoid delays in testing, order the CT/GC on a separate requisition. For referral to CLS, package the requisition and its matching sample separately from the other samples.**
- As the CLS GEN-PROBE APTIMA COMBO2[®] *Chlamydia*/GC method is different from the method currently used in Lethbridge, a change in the collection kit is required. For Drumheller, Hanna and Three Hills, which had previously been sending to the Red Deer Laboratory, there will be NO need to change collection devices.
- Delivery of CT/GC results will be the same as any other testing currently performed at CLS. Results will also be available in Alberta Netcare.
- Turnaround times will continue to be closely monitored to ensure quality care is being maintained.

Action Required:

Before June 3, 2013

- Order an appropriate supply of GEN-PROBE APTIMA[®] Collection Kits through your usual supply ordering system.
 - Urine: GEN-PROBE APTIMA[®] Urine Specimen Collection Kit - Cat. No. 301040
 - Swab: GEN-PROBE APTIMA[®] Unisex Swab Specimen Collection Kit - Cat. No. 301041
- **South Zone** - By June 2, 2013 return all of the BD ProbeTec[™] collection kits to your local laboratory.

June 3, 2013

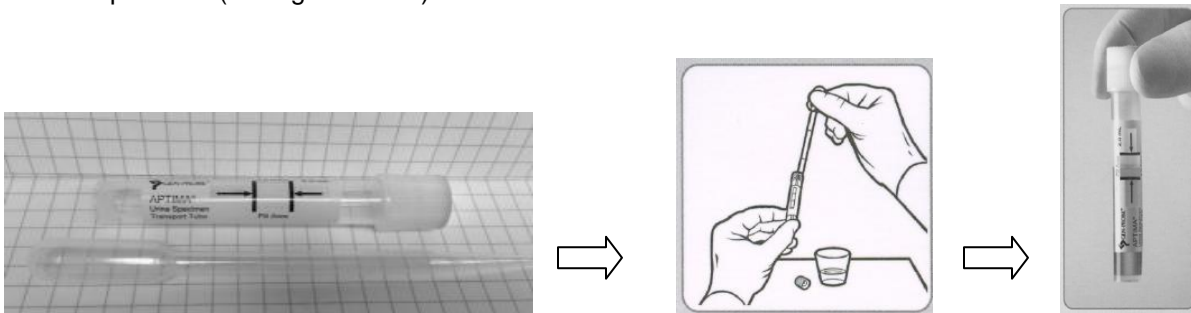
- **Collect all specimens for CT/GC testing in GEN-PROBE APTIMA[®] Collection Kits.**

Note: Specimens received in any other collection kits other than the ones specified will **NOT** be processed if received on or after **June 17, 2013**.

Collection and Transport of Specimens:

It is extremely important to follow single specimen packaging protocol for *C. trachomatis/N. gonorrhoeae* test specimens to prevent cross-contamination.

- **First catch Urine Specimens:** without having voided for at least 1 hour: 20 - 30 mL (beginning of stream in a sterile container).
 1. Direct patient to provide a first - catch urine (approximately 20 to 30 mL of the initial urine stream) into a urine collection cup free of any preservatives. Collection of larger volumes of urine may result in rRNA target dilution that may reduce test sensitivity. Female patients should **not** cleanse the labial area prior to providing the specimen.
 2. Remove the cap and transfer 2 mL of urine into the urine specimen transport tube (GEN-PROBE APTIMA® Urine Specimen Collection Kit – Cat. No. 301040) using the disposable pipette provided. **Note: Transfer must occur within 24 hours of collection or the test results may not be accurate.** The correct volume of urine has been added when the fluid level is between the black fill lines on the urine specimen transport tube label.
 3. Re-cap the urine specimen transport tube tightly. This is now known as the processed urine specimen (see figure below).



- **Swab specimens:** Endocervical and urethral collected in a GEN-PROBE APTIMA® Unisex Swab Specimen Collection Kit - Cat. No. 301041. **Note: two swabs are provided. Discard the white shafted swab after excess mucous is removed. Use the blue shafted swab in the package with the green printing to collect the specimen. Specimens received with the white shaft will not be processed.**
- See additional information at <http://www.calgarylabservices.com/lab-services-guide/lab-tests/AlphabeticalListing/Default.htm>.
- Store specimen at 4°C or room temperature until transport to the laboratory.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- CLS Laboratory Information Centre at: 403-770-3600
- Dorothy Ward , Laboratory Director, South Zone at: 403-528-5639
- Camille Bailer, Laboratory Director, Central Zone at: 403-343-4718

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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