

Date: March 28, 2014

To: STI clinics, Medical Officers of Health, Reproductive Health clinics, Calgary Lab Services, DynaLife, all hospital microbiology laboratories that refer specimens to ProvLab

From: Provincial Laboratory for Public Health (ProvLab)

Re: Discontinuation of *Chlamydia trachomatis* cell culture at ProvLab Alberta

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message: Starting immediately, ProvLab Alberta will cease to undertake *Chlamydia trachomatis* cell culture on submitted specimens. This is due to a cessation of the production of reagents by commercial suppliers. NOTE: this does NOT affect current routine nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) testing for *C. trachomatis*.

Why this is important: A relatively small group of physicians and clinical staff have historically ordered *C. trachomatis* culture to guide decision making for reasons including primary testing of non-genital sites, lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV) testing, and test of cure following treatment.

Action Required:

- If ProvLab is your primary test site for *C. trachomatis* NAAT then please be aware that ProvLab undertakes NAAT testing for genital and non-genital specimens. However, physicians who wish to test non-routine specimens (e.g. biopsy material) for *C. trachomatis* should contact a ProvLab Microbiologist on Call (MOC) prior to collecting the specimen.
- ProvLab also has established separate non-culture protocols for LGV detection and typing. Physicians requiring testing for LGV should (1) contact a ProvLab MOC prior to sending a specimen and (2) should also consult with the ProvLab Guide to Services (<http://www.provlab.ab.ca/guide-to-services.pdf>) for further information regarding LGV testing.
- Physicians who wish to undertake test of cure testing will need to utilize specimen types compatible with the NAAT currently used by their microbiology laboratory provider.
- For cases that do not fit the scenarios above, please contact the ProvLab MOC for a laboratory consultation to guide further testing.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

Calgary: Dr Steven Drews (403) 944-1068

Edmonton: Dr. Greg Tyrrell (780) 407-8949

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Graham Tipples, Medical-Scientific Director, ProvLab