
Date: August 2, 2016
To: STI Clinics
From: Provincial Laboratory for Public Health (ProvLab)
Re: Specimen Acceptance Policy for STI Testing

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Key Messages:

- The AHS Laboratory Services specimen acceptance policy states that all specimens must be received with the corresponding test requisition. When the specimen arrives without a requisition, this constitutes a major deficiency and the specimen does not meet the criteria for processing.
- ProvLab has been inconsistently applying this policy to Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) specimens.
- Effective September 1, 2016, ProvLab will consistently apply the specimen acceptance policy to all STI specimens. Specimens received without a requisition will not be processed.
- Effectively immediately until August 31, 2016, ProvLab will continue to phone STI clinics to notify them when a specimen arrives without a requisition. This interim period will enable both ProvLab and STI Clinics to identify problems and find solutions to minimize the number of specimens not processed due to missing requisitions.

Why this is important:

- As an AHS facility, ProvLab is required to follow AHS policies and accreditation standards.
- The quality and accuracy of laboratory results for clients can only be assured when samples and requests meet specific acceptability criteria.

Actions Required:

- Review workflow practices to identify potential gaps that may be causing specimens to be received at ProvLab without requisitions.
- Package and send all STI specimens with a corresponding test requisition.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

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- Donna Burton, Manager, ProvLab at 780-407-4977 or email Donna.Burton@ahs.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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