
Date: December 9, 2014

To: STI clinics, Medical Officers of Health, Reproductive Health clinics, Calgary Lab Services, DynaLife, Hospital Microbiology Laboratories, Physicians, Women's Health Specialists, CDC Nurses of Alberta, Emergency Doctors – Edmonton, ER Doctors and Nurse Managers, Infectious Disease Doctors – Calgary & Edmonton, New Canadian's Clinic Edmonton

From: Provincial Laboratory for Public Health (ProvLab)

Re: Testing of Extragenital Specimens for *Chlamydia trachomatis*

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Key Messages:

- On March 28, 2014 ProvLab discontinued *Chlamydia* cultures.
- Culture was replaced with the more sensitive Aptima Combo 2® Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT) which requires specimens to be collected and submitted in the Gen-Probe Aptima® Specimen Collection Kits.

Why this is important:

- Requests for *Chlamydia* cultures collected on swabs and submitted in UTM or Amies transport media cannot be processed.
- Recollection using the Gen-Probe Aptima® Specimen Collection Kits is required for these specimens to be processed by NAAT.

Action Required:

- Specimens from eyes and other extragenital sites should be collected using the Gen-Probe Aptima® unisex swabs.
- Consult the [ProvLab Guide to Services](#) for information on the appropriate specimen collection kits.
- **Note:** Specimen kits are only validated for use at their specified sites; they are not interchangeable.
NAAT testing on extragenital specimens is not Health Canada or FDA approved, and has not been validated at ProvLab. Results should be interpreted with caution.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Dr. Prenilla Naidu, Program Leader, ProvLab at: 780-407-7242 or email: Prenilla.Naidu2@albertahealthservices.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Graham Tipples, Medical/Scientific Director, Provincial Laboratory for Public Health