

Date: August 7, 2013
To: South Zone East
Physicians, Nurses, Laboratory Directors and Managers
From: AHS Laboratory Services, Calgary Laboratory Services and Medicine Hat Diagnostic Laboratory
Re: Transition of *Chlamydia trachomatis* (CT) and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (GC) Testing to CLS

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Key Messages:

- **Effective September 23, 2013**, all testing for *Chlamydia trachomatis* (CT) and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (GC) currently performed at Medicine Hat Diagnostic Laboratory (MHDL) will be referred to Calgary Laboratory Services (CLS).
- **New guidelines** for ordering CT/GC will be in effect.
- Please visit <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/3290.asp> to access the complete information package outlining the new ordering guidelines and new sample collection instructions.
- MHDL will deliver an initial supply of collection kits and requisitions to physician offices and laboratory collection sites prior to September 20, 2013.

Why this is important:

- Testing platforms are being consolidated to a single testing location for Southern Alberta patients.
- Testing will be performed using the GEN-PROBE APTIMA COMBO2® on the TIGRIS® platform.
- As the CLS method is different from the method currently used at MHDL, **a change in the collection kit is required**. Collection for these tests will still be done locally
- 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:

- Return existing collection devices to MHDL by September 20, 2013. After the initial replacement supply is received, additional collection kits can be ordered directly from CLS via the CLS physician supply form:
 - Urine: GEN-PROBE APTIMA® Urine Specimen Collection Kit - Cat. No. 301040
 - Swab: GEN-PROBE APTIMA® Unisex Swab Specimen Collection Kit - Cat. No. 301041
- Note:** Specimens received in any other collection kits other than the ones specified will **NOT** be processed if received on or after **Oct 7, 2013**.

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- Order the CT/GC test request on a **separate [CLS Microbiology requisition](#)** to avoid delays in testing.
- Collect **all specimens** for CT/GC testing using the new **GEN-PROBE APTIMA® Collection Kits**.
- Package the requisition and its matching sample separately from other samples to prevent cross-contamination.

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

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Michael O'Connor, AHS Zone Clinical Department Head (Co-Lead) Laboratory Medicine, South Zone
Dr. Leland Baskin, Medical/ Scientific Director, Calgary Laboratory Services