

# Memorandum

**Date:** April 20, 2016

**To:** All South Zone Physicians

**From:** Dr. Deirdre Church, Clinical Section Chief, Microbiology CLS

**Re:** **Implementation of new SPECIMEN COLLECTION guidelines for *Chlamydia trachomatis* (CT) and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (GC) testing**

---

**PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE**

---

**Key Messages:**

- Starting May 1, 2016, the preferred methods of specimen collection for all CT/GC testing will change, to simplify collection and to optimize performance (refer to Table 1 for performance parameters), concurring with implementation of a new bank of instruments. The assay itself remains the same.

**Importance:**

The new **preferred** methods of specimen collection for CT/GC testing are:

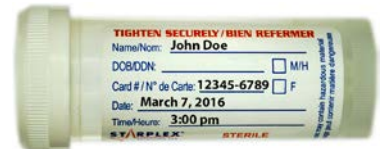
**FEMALE CT/GC testing: Aptima vaginal swab**

- The Aptima vaginal swab has a **pink shaft and orange label**
- This swab **CANNOT** be used for endocervical or non-vaginal sites



**MALE CT/GC testing: urine (first-void)**

- The **first-void urine** sample should be no more than 30 mL to avoid target dilution, which reduces the test sensitivity
- Collect in the new **white-topped 30mL container**
- The orange-topped sterile specimen container should be avoided for CT/GC testing, as overfilling and sample dilution is a common problem



**Other sites: Aptima unisex swab**

- The Aptima Unisex swab has a **blue shaft and white label**
- Other sites may include endocervical, urethral, eyes, rectal, throat
- This swab **CANNOT** be used for a vaginal site



***Trichomonas vaginalis*** and **bacterial vaginosis** testing will continue to be performed at your local laboratory. Please **continue** to collect specimens using your current process (e.g. **pink-top Starplex swab**).

**Action Required:**

- The new specimen collection containers are available using your current ordering process. Please order and stock all the required specimen containers as soon as possible.

**Inquiries and Feedback:**

Specimen container ordering: Lori MacDonell (Medicine Hat) @ 403-770-3546

Roseita Turnbull (Lethbridge) @ 403-388-6048

Clinical inquiries: CLS Microbiologist On-Call @ 403-770-3757

**This memorandum has been reviewed and approved by:**

Leland Baskin, MD MS, FCAP, FACB, Medical Director, VP Medical Operations, Calgary Laboratory Services

**Table 1: Performance of the APTIMA COMBO 2 Assay (Hologics) for Detection of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (GC), *Chlamydia trachomatis* (CT) and *Trichomonas vaginalis* (TV)**

***Neisseria gonorrhoeae***

Gender	Specimen	Symptomatic?	Sensitivity	Specificity
Female	Vaginal Swab	Yes	96.2	99.1
		No	95.5	99.3
	Endocervical Swab	Yes	100	98.1
		No	96.9	99.6
	Urine	Yes	92.6	99.1
		No	87.5	99.5
Male	Urethral Swab	Yes	99	98.8
		No	100	96.7
	Urine	Yes	98.4	99.8
		No	100	99.5

***Chlamydia trachomatis***

Gender	Specimen	Symptomatic?	Sensitivity	Specificity
Female	Vaginal Swab	Yes	96.5	98.9
		No	96.7	97.7
	Endocervical Swab	Yes	94.7	99.3
		No	96.3	99.3
	Urine	Yes	93.8	99.1
		No	96.8	98.9
Male	Urethral Swab	Yes	96.4	99.4
		No	94.6	98.9
	Urine	Yes	98.5	99.8
		No	96.3	99.8

***Trichomonas vaginalis***

Gender	Specimen	Symptomatic?	Sensitivity	Specificity
Female	Vaginal Swab	Yes	100	98.8
		No	100	97.3
	Endocervical Swab	Yes	100	97.9
		No	100	98.3
	Urine	Yes	95.8	98.7
		No	86.7	99.6