

Memorandum

Date: February 17, 2015
To: Calgary and Rural Zone Physicians
From: Calgary Laboratory Services
Re: New Method for *Trichomonas* Testing

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Key Messages:

- Effective **March 10, 2015**, *Trichomonas vaginalis* testing at Calgary Laboratory Services (CLS) will transition to a highly sensitive and specific nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT), the Aptima *Trichomonas vaginalis* assay (Hologic).
- This assay has been validated for testing of vaginal and cervical sources.
 - Vaginal specimens for *Trichomonas* must be collected with the Aptima Vaginal Swab Specimen Collection Kit. This is a new kit and must be ordered separately. Please note that swabs for Bacterial vaginosis (BV) and yeast must be collected separately on the current Amies liquid swab (red-top).
 - Cervical specimens for *Trichomonas* must be collected with the Aptima Unisex Swab Specimen Collection Kit. This is the same collection kit currently being used to collect *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (CT/GC) specimens. **Please note that if testing for both CT/GC and *Trichomonas* are desired, only one Aptima Unisex Swab needs to be collected.**
 - It is not necessary to collect both a vaginal and a cervical specimen for the diagnosis of *Trichomonas* – a single specimen from either site will suffice.
- Specimens from other sites have not been validated. If submitted, the report will indicate that the assay has not been validated for that site, and that results must be interpreted with a high degree of caution.

Background:

Trichomonas vaginalis is a major sexually transmitted protozoal pathogen worldwide, and a well-known cause of vaginitis. Recent data show that it is also a cause of non-gonococcal urethritis, endocervicitis/PID and proctitis. For this reason, *Trichomonas* testing should be performed on genital sources in patients suspected of having an STI, particularly if prior tests for *Chlamydia trachomatis*/N. *gonorrhoeae* remain negative.

Action Required:

Prior to March 10, 2015

- Order the new version of the Microbiology requisition REQ9021MI 20150130 form # CAL200-24 <http://www.calgarylabservices.com/files/CLSForms/PUR7507.pdf>
- When you have a sufficient supply of new requisitions, **discard** all previous versions of the requisition.
- If you have an electronic copy of this requisition either through Elab or have developed your own, please ensure the changes have been uploaded to your system.
- Order GEN-PROBE APTIMA® Vaginal Swab Collection Kit - Cat. No. 301162 <http://www.calgarylabservices.com/files/CLSForms/PUR7507.pdf>
- Order GEN-PROBE APTIMA® Unisex Swab Specimen Collection Kit - Cat. No. 301041 <http://www.calgarylabservices.com/files/CLSForms/PUR7507.pdf>

Testing and Reporting:

- Testing will be performed Monday - Friday.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

Microbiologist On Call @ 403-770-3757

This memorandum has been reviewed and approved by:

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