

TO: All Physicians

FROM: Dr. Dan Gregson, Division Head, Microbiology, CLS

DATE: AUGUST 7, 2013

RE: Testing of Women \geq 35 years of Age for Genital *Chlamydia trachomatis*/*Neisseria gonorrhoeae* Cervicitis

As per the attached Calgary Laboratory Services (CLS) Microbiology Newsletter (August 2013), women \geq 35 years of age will no longer be routinely tested for genital *Chlamydia trachomatis*/*Neisseria gonorrhoeae* cervicitis effective September 23, 2013 when CLS assumes responsibility for testing Medicine Hat patients.

CLS will routinely test women in this age group in the following clinical situations:

- 1) Woman meets the **risk factors** outlined by Health Canada which include:
 - Recent contact with a known case of sexually transmitted infection (STI) and/or
 - Sexually active with new or $>$ 2 partners within the past 6 months **and/or**
 - Street involvement **and/or**
 - Substance abuse
 - Approval by Microbiologist-on-Call
- 2) Woman has symptoms suggestive of cervicitis and/or urethritis
- 3) Pregnant – prenatal screening. Public Health requires routine screening of pregnant women for genital *Chlamydia trachomatis* and/or *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* infection. CLS will therefore continue to routinely screen pregnant women, regardless of age.

Physicians should complete the clinical history on the CLS Microbiology requisition, indicating why a woman \geq 35 years of age is being tested as outlined above. If the clinical reason for testing is not provided, the sample will not be analyzed.

CLS holds all genital specimens from women \geq 35 years of age for 7 days that are initially rejected for testing because a clinical history is not provided on the requisition. In these cases, the Medical Microbiologist-on-Call should be contacted at 403-770-3757 to have the testing approved.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Medical Microbiologist on call at: 403-770-3757.