

Date: May 27, 2011

To: South Zone - West
Physician Offices and AHS Programs

From: AHS Laboratory Services – South Zone (West)
Dr. B. Popma, Medical Director SZ West Laboratory

Re: LB-14-11 Vaginal Slide Labeling

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

The new provincial Acceptance of Laboratory Samples and Test Requests Policy will be in effect on July 1, 2011.

Physician offices collecting vaginal swabs/slides for bacterial vaginosis are currently labeling the glass slide with the patient's last name and first name. A second unique identifier will now be required on all glass slides submitted to the laboratory for analysis.

The unique identifiers per the policy are:

- ULI (unique lifetime Identifier)
- PHN number
- Personal ID number (e.g. Federal, Military, RCMP, Refugee, Immigration, Passport etc)
- Facility Assigned Number (e.g. Hospital #, Clinic #, Unit #, Account #, Accession #)

Note that date of birth is no longer accepted as a unique identifier.

Why this is important:

If both identifiers are not present, the laboratory will be unable to accept the slides and will be required to discard the slide which means the gram stain assessment for bacterial vaginosis will not be available.

Action Required:

Starting July 1, 2011 all vaginal smears (glass slides) must have the last name, first name **AND** the second unique identifier on the slide, not the slide holder.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

Dr. B. Popma Zone Clinical Dept. Head (Co-Lead) Laboratory at 403-388-6153

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by
Dr. V. F. Boras, MD FRCPC, Pathologist, Chinook Regional Hospital Laboratory.