

August 7, 2013

AHS Laboratory Services
Laboratory Integration, Standards & Initiatives
Edmonton General
Room 13R21, 11111 Jasper Ave
Edmonton, AB T5K 0L4

Dear Physicians,

Re: Transition of *Chlamydia trachomatis* (CT) and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (GC) Testing to Calgary Laboratory Services (CLS)

This letter is directed to all physicians and healthcare staff in South Zone East who currently submit samples for *Chlamydia trachomatis* (CT) and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (GC) testing to the Medicine Hat Diagnostic Laboratory using Starplex sterile, screw-capped container or the cobas 4800 CT/NG Female Collection Kit.

We would like to inform you that as part of a provincial standardization and consolidation initiative; as of September 23rd, 2013 testing will be performed at Calgary Laboratory Services. Since the method that will be used; GEN-PROBE APTIMA COMBO2® Chlamydia/GC method is different than what is currently performed at Medicine Hat Diagnostic Laboratory, **a change in the collection kit is required.**

****** Please note: Urine samples must come already transferred in the urine specimen transport tube. Swab specimens must be collected with the blue shaft collection swab. Samples not collected properly will not be processed. ******

****** Please note as this assay is extremely sensitive, all individuals handling patient samples must ensure they avoid introducing contamination by changing gloves after each patient they come in contact with or after each patient sample they contact. ******

Included are the **AHS/CLS Laboratory Bulletin, CLS utilization Memo and Newsletter, CLS Microbiology Requisitions, and Collection Instructions.**

If you have any questions, please contact Medicine Hat Diagnostic Laboratory or Calgary Laboratory Services.

Sincerely,



Alberta Health Services
Basil Elyas, BSc, PMP, CSSBB
Business Support Manager,
Laboratory Integration, Standards & Initiatives
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