

Laboratory Medicine Bulletin

April 30, 2013

TO: Providence Health Care Physicians

RE: **New *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* testing**

Effective May 8, 2013, St. Paul's Hospital Laboratory will switch to a new ***Chlamydia/Neisseria gonorrhoeae*: GEN-PROBE Aptima** assay, which requires a **DIFFERENT** specimen collection kit. Previous *Amplicor* collection swabs are not compatible with this new methodology and, therefore, will be rejected by the laboratory.

The specimen collection kit for female endocervical samples and male urethral samples is UNISEX, i.e., the same collection kit can be used for both female and male patients. For female patients, a swab with a white shaft is provided in the kit for removing mucus from the cervix. (This swab is not suitable for testing and must always be discarded.) The swab with the blue shaft is used for collection of endocervical and male urethral specimens. Swabs can be kept at room temperature or refrigerated until transport to the laboratory.

Endocervical / Urethral Collection Procedure:

	STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3
	<p>Endocervical swabs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use white shaft swab first to remove excess cervical mucus and discard. Insert the blue shaft swab into the cervix and gently rotate <p>Urethral swabs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The patient should not have urinated for at least one hour before specimen collection Discard the large white shaft swab Insert the blue shaft swab 2-4 cm into the urethra and gently rotate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove the cap from the tube Place swab into tube Break shaft at scored line 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace cap on tube Specimen can be kept at room temperature or refrigerated until transport to the laboratory

Containers for urine specimens (**first void urines**) remain unchanged, but must be transported to the laboratory within 24 hours of collection in order for the laboratory to transfer the urine into a special tube for testing. Urine specimens can be kept at room temperature or refrigerated until transport to the laboratory.

For all inquiries, please contact the PHC Medical Microbiology laboratory at 604-806-8184.