Submission Guidelines for *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* Gradient Strip AST

All test requests require preauthorization before specimen submission.

1) **Isolate/Specimen Labeling Requirements**
   a. Isolate/prepared specimen must be clearly labeled (electronically generated labels preferred)
   b. **A minimum of two unique patient identifiers.** Acceptable identifiers include:
      i. Patient’s full name
      ii. Date of birth
      iii. Medical record number
      iv. Last 4 digits of social security number
   c. **Date of specimen collection**
   d. **Unlabeled specimens received by MDPHL will be rejected.**

2) **Shipping Requirements**
   a. Once the specimen has been approved by MDPHL for shipment, the patient specimen should be prepared according to the criteria below:
      i. If sending a clinical specimen, prepare according to GC collection kit instructions provided with the kit.
      ii. If sending a frozen sample, ship using an insulated cooler contain with dry ice.
      iii. If sending a slant, subculture the isolate on a chocolate slant and ship at ambient temperature.
   b. **Include a completed copy of the Maryland Department of Health Infectious Agents: Culture/Detection form**
      i. See the “MDPHL Requisition Form – GC Etest”
      ii. **All highlighted fields must be filled out, including submitter name and address, contact information, the ordering physician (Test Request Authorized by), patient information, date and date collected, and specimen source.**
      iii. If it has not been preauthorized for testing, MDH will reject the specimen.

3) **Shipping Information**
   a. Isolates/specimens should be shipped overnight Monday through Friday to the following address by FedEx or courier:
      i. **Attn: ARLN Laboratory**
         Maryland Department of Health
         1770 Ashland Ave.
         Baltimore, MD 21205
         Phone: 443-681-4569
      b. The isolate/specimen should be shipped following the International Air Transport Association’s (IATA) Category B regulations.

4) **Contact Information**
   a. For any questions, please contact mdphl.arln@maryland.gov or call 443-681-3946.