



MARYLAND Department of Health

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

Laboratories Administration
Robert A. Myers, Ph.D., Director
1770 Ashland Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21205

MEMORANDUM

To: CT/GC NAAT Approved Submitters

From: Sarah E. Langtry, PHLS Supervisor, Chlamydia Laboratory *SEL*

Through: Kenneth Okogi, PHLS Manager, Division of Virology and Immunology *K Okogi*
Robert A. Myers, Ph.D., Director, Laboratories Administration *R.A.M.*

CC: Elisabeth Liebow, MPH, Center for STI Infection
César Peña, DVM, MHS, Epidemiologist, Center for STI Infection

Date: February 5, 2018

Re: CT/ GC NAAT Testing Platform Update

The Maryland Department of Health, Laboratories Administration would like to announce, effective **March 1, 2018**, we will be adopting a new testing platform for *Chlamydia* and *Gonorrhea* NAAT testing. In addition to current specimen sources, this new testing platform allows testing of oral specimens for the presence of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea nucleic acid.

The collection and submission procedures for the existing and new assays are similar, but there are some key differences that should be highlighted. **Please see Collection Instructions and Physician's Guide for further details.**

- Single **Unisex swab** versus existing blue male and pink female swab. The single unisex swab will be used for rectal and oral specimens as well.
- The new platform's endocervical and urethral specimens have a collection to test time of **60 days**, while the rectal and oral specimens will have a collection to test time of **7 days**.
- The new urine collection kit comes with the disposable pipette inside the package.
- The new urine transport tube contains **preservation media**. Please **DO NOT** remove preservation media.
- Urine must be transferred into the urine transport tube **within 24 hours** of collection by the clinician.

- The new vaginal swab is now **pink**, with a collection to test time of **60 days**.
- Additional result of “**Equivocal**” will be possible.

Please ensure all samples collected with the existing collection kits are submitted to the lab by **February 24, 2018** in order to complete testing prior to the February 28th end date. Out of use collection kits must be discarded following your facility’s biomedical waste disposal guidelines. Any specimens collected after February 24th with the out of use collection kits will be rejected.

The new collection kits are available from our Outfits Unit. Please order only what you will need over the next month as we continue to build our stock. Please see the updated order form, and indicate on the form whether you are requesting new kits (for after February 26th) or existing kits (before February 24th). Specimens must be collected using the new kits to be tested after **February 28, 2018**.

If you are a current HL7 customer, please contact OIMS before ordering this test: steven.montgomery@maryland.gov

Please contact the lab at **443-681-3937** or the Chlamydia Supervisor at **443-681-3932**, if you have any questions.

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