



Oregon State Public Health Laboratory

Date: July 17, 2009

To: All Submitters of Specimens for Chlamydia Testing

From: Chris Biggs, Manager, Virology/Immunology Section, Oregon State Public Health Laboratory

Subject: CHANGES IN THE TEST FOR CHLAMYDIA SCREENING

As of August 3, 2009 the OSPHL will be changing from the current test method used for Chlamydia to a new method. This change will allow us to improve the quality of our service to you. The following are things that you need to know about this change:

- **The new method is a combination *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* test (CT/GC Combo).** Each specimen will be tested for both organisms at the same time and a result will be reported for each.
- **The transport times for specimens have been relaxed.** All specimens can now be sent at room temperature and the lab can accept and test them if they are received within 30 days of collection.
- **The new test has expanded specimen types available.** You will now have the option of submitting: endocervical swabs, urethral swabs, urine, clinician-collected vaginal swabs, and self-collected vaginal swabs (asymptomatic women only).
- **The new test uses different collection devices.**
 - The Unisex collection device is used for endocervical and urethral swabs and has a white label with purple lettering.
 - The Urine collection device has a yellow label and a window with markings for the correct fill area and black lettering.
 - The Vaginal collection device has an orange label with black lettering.
- **If your site has not received training on the new collection devices** (either in person or through a power point presentation) please contact Terry Crandall at (503) 693-4124 or terry.crandall@state.or.us as soon as possible.
- **You will receive a “starter supply” of collection devices shortly.** This will give you enough time to place an order while still allowing you to start submitting samples for the new test. You will need to determine what mix of sample types you expect to submit and order collection devices accordingly. Please try to order only what you think you are going to use and do not stockpile. The collection devices make up about 10% of the test cost and if they exceed their shelf-life they will have to be discarded.
- **On August 01, 2009 if you have received your “starter supply” of collection devices and have been trained to use them correctly, please discard all remaining endocervical and urine collection kits for the old test.** You can still use any request forms that have the labels at the bottom but we will not be able to test any specimens collected and submitted in the old collection

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devices received after August 06, 2009.

- **You will see a new comment on your laboratory test reports for 60 days after the changeover to the new test.** The comment will read “As of August 3, 2009 OSPHL will begin using a different assay kit for *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* molecular testing. This change will require slight alterations in the report language for these tests.”

We will try to make the change as smooth as possible for you. However, if you have questions, please contact Chris Biggs (christianne.biggs@state.or.us) or Terry Crandall (terry.crandall@state.or.us) at 503-639-4100.