



March 2008

## ***N. meningitidis* - Criteria for Nucleic Acid Amplification Testing**

### **To Health Care Providers:**

Nucleic Acid Amplification Testing (NAAT) for *N. meningitidis* is performed by the Ontario Public Health Laboratory to assist in diagnosis of meningococcal disease.

This test is offered under the following conditions:

- When the clinical picture is consistent with a diagnosis of invasive meningococcal disease.
- When the submitting laboratory is unable to culture *N. meningitidis* after 24-48 hours incubation and meningococcal disease is still suspected (e.g. due to use of antibiotics prior to obtaining a specimen from the patient).

### **Specimen Requirements**

The following specimens are suitable for NAAT for *N. meningitidis*:

- Cerebral spinal fluid (CSF)
- Whole blood (EDTA tube only)
- Plasma (from EDTA tube only)
- Serum

Specimens will not be tested until CPHL is contacted. Notify CPHL prior to the submission of sample by contacting:

- the Head of Reference Identification and Susceptibility at 416-235-5706 or
- the Head of Molecular Diagnostics at 416-235-5866 or
- the Duty Officer at 416-605-3113 on weekends and evenings.

Information required on the requisition form includes the submitting laboratory information with telephone, Gram stain results and clinical information.

Transport all specimens on ice packs.

### **For Further Information:**

- Contact the Reference Identification and Susceptibility Laboratory at **416-235-5706** or the Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory at **416-235-5866**
- Refer to the Specimen Collection Guide at [www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/pub/labs/specimen.html](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/pub/labs/specimen.html)
- OPHL HELPLINE at 1-800-640-7221