

June 2009

Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae
- Specimen Collection and Methodology Change in the Laboratory
Diagnosis of infections

To Health Care Providers:

Beginning June 1, 2009 the Ontario Public Health Laboratories (OPHL) will change service providers for the routine diagnosis of *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* from urogenital specimens. The new testing methodology will be the GEN-PROBE® APTIMA® assay system. Specimens collected with the current BD (Becton Dickinson) ProbeTec™ ET Amplified DNA Assay Collection and Dry Transport Kits are not compatible with the new test assay.

Changeover Timing

- Effective immediately, clients are asked to order the new GEN-PROBE® collection kits to prepare for the changeover to the new test.
- June 1, 2009 areas served by the Hamilton, London, Toronto and Windsor OPHL will accept specimens collected using the GEN-PROBE® kits.
- July 1, 2009 areas served by the Kingston, Ottawa, Orillia, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Timmins and Thunder Bay OPHL will accept specimens collected using the GEN-PROBE® kits.
- August 1, 2009 the OPHL will no longer accept neat urines or specimens collected using the BD ProbeTec™ ET kits. These will be reported as rejected.

New Collection Kits:

New APTIMA® collection kits available from your local PHL are the:

- Unisex Swab Specimen Collection Kit for clinician-collected endocervical and male urethral swab specimens.
- Urine Specimen Collection Kit for female and male urine specimens.
- Vaginal Swab Specimen Collection Kit for clinician or patient-collected vaginal swab specimens when a pelvic exam is not otherwise indicated. This kit is not approved for home use.

Benefits of the New Assay:

The new methodology includes a unisex swab collection kit and additional approved specimen sources. The urine specimen collection kit will reduce rejection of leaking urine specimens. Benefits also include longer acceptable specimen transport times and faster laboratory testing turn around time.

For Further Information or to Schedule Onsite Training:

- Bacterial STI Laboratory at **416-235-5732** or your local Public Health Laboratory
- Public Health Laboratory Helpline **1-800-640-7221**
- For the Specimen Collection Guide and previous Labstracts refer to www.oahpp.ca