

MEMO

Chlamydia and Gonococcal Test Changes

To MidCentral DHB Laboratory Test Referrers
From Medlab Central
Date January 2014

Introduction - From 3 Feb 2014, Medlab is pleased to offer a new PCR test that will detect both gonorrhoea and/or chlamydia from a single specimen. This test replaces routine culture for detection of gonorrhoea with improved sensitivity, the ability to use non-invasive sample types, in some instances, and room-temperature storage for collected samples. Both tests will be done and reported. The test **NOT** to be done must be specifically indicated on the request form.

Females

Cobas PCR Cervical, Urethral, Vaginal or Self Collect Vaginal Swab



If the low vaginal swab is taken by a health professional, sweep the swab across the urethral meatus and then rotate in the vagina for 10 seconds

Urine is **NOT** recommended for females due to low sensitivity and will NOT be accepted for testing unless specially indicated.

Males

First Void Urine - NOT MSU



Delay passing urine for 1-2 hours before collection. Collect the first 10-20mL of voided urine **ONLY**. Greater than 20mL may give a false negative.

DELIVER TO THE LABORATORY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

OR Urethral Swab



Rectal, Pharyngeal and Conjunctiva Swabs - Cobas PCR Swab

Although not validated for PCR testing, PCR swabs from these sites are now acceptable. PCR positive cases should be confirmed by cultures.

Gonococcal Culture - Cervical and/or Urethral Swabs (vaginal swabs have a low recovery rate)

PCR will not provide antibiotic susceptibilities as no isolate is grown. Medlab will continue to provide culture and antibiotic susceptibility testing in the following circumstances:

1. Treatment failure – where symptoms persist, test with culture within 7 days of completion of therapy
2. Medico-legal requirements e.g. sexual assault
3. Infant eye swabs
4. Allergy to empiric treatment
5. Failed PCR results – as indicated by the laboratory

Please note you must use a bacterial transport (purple top) swab where culture and susceptibility testing for gonorrhoea is required. If you need to discuss testing in the above situations please contact the laboratory: 06 952 3118

Bacterial Vaginosis, Candida and Trichomonas

A Bacterial Transport VAGINAL Swab (blue or purple top) is still required - no change

For Treatment Options

NZ Sexual Health Society guidelines
<http://www.nzshs.org/guidelines.html>

For Further Advice

Dr Anne Robertson
MidCentral Sexual Health Service
06 350 8602