

# MEMO

To  
From  
Date

## Chlamydia and Gonococcal Test Changes

Whanganui DHB Laboratory Test Referrers

Medlab Central

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** (purple top) is still required - no change

### Treatment

The current recommendations for empiric treatment cover both gonorrhoea and chlamydia, including in pregnancy and breastfeeding:

Ceftriaxone 500mg (IM) stat      **AND**  
Azithromycin (oral) 1g stat

### For further details

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