

Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Memorandum

To: Central Zone Healthcare Providers and Health Service Directors







From: Dr. Glenn Patriquin, Director Bacteriology
 Dr. Ross Davidson, Director Bacteriology
 Audra Russell-Tattrie, Supervisor Bacteriology

Date: June 22, 2023

Message: Changes to Collection for Bacterial Vaginosis, Candida, and Trichomonas Vaginitis Testing

Starting July 4, 2023, the Central Zone Microbiology Laboratory will be transitioning Bacterial Vaginosis (BV), Candida and Trichomonas Vaginitis (CV/TV) testing for people with vaginal discharge from the traditional manual slide method to automated instrumentation. The new test detects nucleic acids of the pathogens and requires changing the current method of collection utilizing eSwab™ to the Aptima Swab Multi-Test Specimen Collection Kit #206939.

How to order: The Aptima Swab product code is **#206939 – Swab Multi-test Specimen Collection**. Order through NSH stores using your normal process. NSH Customer Service Desk: 902-466-8070

Aptima Swab (BV and CV/TV)	Bacteriology Swab (e.g Strep throat swab)	Virology Swab (e.g COVID, HSV)
		
		

When to use: Testing for BV or CV/TV should **only be done on SYMPTOMATIC** individuals. Candida spp. can be a part of the normal vaginal flora. Treatment for vulvovaginal candidiasis is only indicated in symptomatic individuals if other potential causes have been ruled out. Similarly routine asymptomatic screening for BV is not recommended and may lead to false positive results given the increased sensitivity of this assay.

How to Collect: Like CT/GC testing, vaginal swabs can be obtained by either the patient (self collection) or the treating clinician. Published data suggest the accuracy is comparable between the two methods. Refer to the attached instruction sheet for guidance on how to use the new swabs.

How many swabs to collect: if your patient requires both CT/GC testing and BV and/or CV/TV please submit **TWO Aptima swabs** to ensure there is enough specimen to complete all of the tests.

Will the old method still be accepted? Testing collected in eSwab™ will be accepted until September 1, 2023 after which time only samples received in the Aptima Swab Multi-Test Specimen Collection Kit will be processed.

If you have any questions, please contact the laboratory at 902-473-2120.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APTIMA Multitest® Swab Specimen Collection Kit – Vaginal Swab

- Partially open the swab package and remove the swab. Do not touch the soft tip or lay the swab down. **If the soft tip is touched, laid down, or dropped, discard and get a new Aptima Multitest Swab Specimen Collection Kit.** Hold the swab, placing thumb and forefinger in the middle of the shaft covering the black score line. Do not hold the shaft below the score line.
- Carefully insert the swab into the vagina about 2 inches (5 cm) past the introitus and gently rotate the swab for 10 to 30 seconds. Make sure the swab touches the vaginal walls so that moisture is absorbed by the swab. Withdraw the swab without touching the skin.
- While holding the swab in hand, unscrew the tube cap. Do not spill the tube contents. **If the tube contents are spilled, discard and replace with a new Aptima Multitest Swab Specimen Collection Kit.** Immediately place the swab into the transport tube so the black score line is at the top of the tube. Align the score line with the top edge of the tube and carefully break the shaft. The swab will drop to the bottom of the vial. Discard the top portion of the shaft.
- Tightly screw the cap onto the tube. When collecting multiple specimens from the same patient, the tube label provides a specimen source field for unique identification for the specimen location.

