ALBERTA PRECISION LABORATORIES
Leaders in Laboratory Medicine

DynaLIFE MEDICAL LABS

Laboratory Bulletin

Date: November 3, 2020
To: All Zones: Physicians, nurses, healthcare practitioners
From: Alberta Precision Laboratories and DynaLIFE DX
Re: APTIMA collection kit shortage for Chlamydia and gonorrhea testing in Alberta

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

- APTIMA ® swabs and urine collection kit supplies for *Chlamydia trachomatis* (CT) and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (GC) nucleic acid testing (NAT) are critically low in Alberta.
- Effective immediately, clinicians are asked to prioritize CT/GC testing to maintain collection kits for high risk individuals.

Why this is important:

- Although APTIMA ® swabs are no longer required for COVID-19 testing in Alberta, the global demand on supply chain associated with the COVID-19 pandemic have affected the manufacturers ability to produce APTIMA® swabs and urine collection kits.
- APTIMA® swabs and urine collection kits are currently the only collection devices available for CT/GC NAT in Alberta. These shortages are expected to persist through the winter into 2021.

Action required:

- To efficiently utilize limited provincial collection kit resources physicians should consider prioritizing CT/GC testing as following:

    1) **Continue testing of symptomatic individuals with a clinical presentation consistent with a STI** (i.e., vaginitis, cervicitis, Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID), urethritis, proctitis)
    2) **Continue testing the following asymptomatic individuals:**
        - pregnant women as per Alberta Prenatal Screening guidelines
        - Men or women with new, anonymous, or multiple partners
    3) **Stop testing low risk individuals** (i.e. CT/GC screen as part of annual PAP testing, individuals in monogamous relationships)
    4) **Limit** test of cure (TOC) for CT/GC to pregnant women and children and individuals with suspected treatment failure or antimicrobial resistance. For suspected GC resistance, an Amies or charcoal swab for culture should also submitted.
    5) **Consider extending interval times between screening in asymptomatic individuals at risk,** i.e., extended screening intervals for extragenital testing in PrEP clients every 6 months.
    6) Consider empiric treatment as per Alberta Treatment Guidelines for STIs for asymptomatic contacts to confirmed CT /GC cases **without** simultaneous CT/ GC testing.

- Sites may receive a different swab collection kits than what was ordered. Refer to the APL Test Directory for your zone or the Dynalife Test Directory (https://www.dynalife.ca/testdirectory) for more information.
- Follow specific zone recommendations as the situation evolves.

Inquiries and Feedback

- Dr. Julie Carson, Medical Microbiologist, APL-Calgary; Julie.carson@aplabs.ca
- Dr. Mathew Diggle, Clinical Microbiologist, APL-Public Health North; Mathew.diggle@aplabs.ca
- Dr. Natalia Solomon, Medical Microbiologist, Dynalife; Natalie.solomon@dynalife.ca
- Dr. Petra Smyczek, Medical Director of AHS STI Services

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

- Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Interim Chief Medical Laboratory Officer
- Dr. Raymond Lai, Medical Director, DynaLIFE Medical Labs