UR MEDICINE | Labs

Laboratory Detection of *Trichomonas vaginalis* by Nucleic Acid Amplification

To: Clients of UR Medicine Labs

From: Dwight J. Hardy, PhD
Director, UR Medicine Clinical Microbiology Laboratories
Phone: (585) 275-1408 email: dwight_hardy@urmc.rochester.edu

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According to data from the CDC, trichomoniasis is a highly prevalent sexually transmitted infection affecting women and men. With respect to available laboratory test methods for the detection of *Trichomonas vaginalis* in clinical specimens, Nucleic Acid Amplification Testing (NAAT) is significantly more sensitive than traditional detection methods, i.e., microscopy (50%-60% sensitive) and culture (75% to 95% sensitive).

Beginning December 21st, we will provide testing for *T. vaginalis* by NAAT on the BD Viper platform (Becton Dickinson ProbeTec™) which we currently use for detection of *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*. Using this method, a single provider-collected swab of the endocervix or a single self-collected swab of the vagina can be used to detect nucleic acid from one or all three organisms; although urine is an FDA-cleared specimen type it is the least preferred specimen due to potential cross-contamination of specimens by the "leaky" urine container. Until urines from males are in-house validated for testing by NAAT, culture for T. vaginalis in male urines is the preferred method. The NAAT for T. vaginalis will be performed Monday thru Friday (same as for Chlamydia/GC). Until individual EMRs are updated to include this test, clients should request "Trichomonas NAAT".

Refer to the UR Medicine Clinical Labs Test Index for availability of specimen collection/transport devices and details of specimen collection and transport to the laboratory: www.testmenu.com/rochester. For additional information contact Dr. Hardy by any of the methods listed above.