



UNC
HEALTH CARE

MEMORANDUM #141

TO: UNC Hospitals Attending Physicians, Housestaff, Nursing Coordinators,
Department Heads and Supervisors

FROM: *MBM* Melissa B. Miller, PhD, Director, Clinical Molecular Microbiology Laboratory
PHG Peter H. Gilligan, PhD, Director, Clinical Microbiology-Immunology Laboratory
HWH Herbert C. Whinna, MD, PhD, Director, McLendon Clinical Laboratories

DATE: November 5, 2012

SUBJECT: Changes in Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Ordering

Beginning November 5, 2012, the UNC Clinical Microbiology-Immunology Laboratory will offer the following tests for the detection of *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*.

1. Nucleic acid amplification testing (NAAT) is performed by the FDA-approved Gen-Probe Panther APTIMA2 Combo test. Previously, chlamydia and gonorrhea NAAT testing had to be ordered individually. Now it is orderable as a combination test through SMS/CPOE as "**CHLAMYDIA AND GONORRHOEAE NAA**". The individual NAAT tests are no longer orderable. Acceptable sites are vaginal, endocervical, urine (first stream, <30 ml), male urethral, rectal and throat swabs.
2. Test of Cure *C. trachomatis* NAAT testing can be ordered using **the combination test** as indicated above, but write in the **comment line "CHLAMYDIA TOC ONLY"**. In general, practitioners should consider testing for BOTH chlamydia and gonorrhea with each specimen as the risk factors, signs and symptoms are not distinguishable. Note that test of cure for chlamydia is only recommended by the CDC for pregnant women. Testing should be performed 3 weeks after the completion of therapy, or the results may be falsely positive.
3. Test of cure *N. gonorrhoeae* testing is performed by culture only. If you suspect therapeutic failure for gonorrhea, please order "**TEST OF CURE GC CULTURE**" and transport the swab to the lab immediately. If the culture is positive for *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, the lab will automatically facilitate antimicrobial susceptibility testing by the CDC.

For more information, consult the McLendon Clinical Laboratories website at <http://labs.unchealthcare.org/> or contact the Clinical Molecular Microbiology Laboratory at 6-6101 or Dr. Melissa Miller at pager 216-6131.