



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
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Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor

Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary

MEMORANDUM

Date: August 9, 2011

To: Local Health Directors
Directors of Nursing
Laboratory Managers

From: Leslie A. Wolf, PhD, HCLD(ABB), Director 

Subject: Conversion of Vaginal Swab Collection Kits for Chlamydia/Gonorrhea (CT/GC)

In February of this year, the State Laboratory of Public Health (SLPH) began converting from the endocervical swab collection kit to a vaginal swab collection kit for testing both *Chlamydia trachomatis* (CT) and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (GC) in the APTIMA Combo 2 nucleic acid amplified test (NAAT) for female patients.

The SLPH inventory of endocervical swabs was depleted early this year and all new orders for endocervical and urine collection kits have since been filled with vaginal collection kits. During this transition period, all three specimen types (endocervical, urine, and vaginal) have been accepted for testing in the laboratory. However, any remaining endocervical collection kits that were distributed to Local Health Departments by the SLPH will expire on August 31, 2011.

Therefore, effective September 1, 2011, SLPH will ONLY accept vaginal swab specimens for CT/GC NAAT testing. Submitters should also begin using the new DHHS #4011 request form (available at <http://slph.ncpublichealth.com/Forms/4011-20110608.pdf>), which has been updated to include a check-off box for "Vaginal" source. If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact Mary Noel Dodd, Bacterial STD Laboratory Supervisor, at (919) 807-8803.

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