

Department of Pathology and Immunology
Division of Laboratory and Genomic Medicine

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As a result of global supply shortages, the central laboratory at the Institute for Health (IOH) has reduced capacity to perform molecular testing for *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhea* (CT/NG).
In response to this we are implementing strategies to preserve our ability to offer testing to our patient population.

- **Please send urine specimens for testing when possible.**
 - Urine specimens can be sent in one of two approved collection devices (see attached flyer), but not the current Cepheid Xpert collection device. This change is necessary to preserve our limited testing capacity for specific specimen types (pharyngeal and rectal swabs) essential for patient care that are not able to be tested elsewhere.
- Urine specimens will be sent to a reference laboratory for testing utilizing a molecular technique with similar performance characteristics to the one currently in use.
- **The expected turnaround time for results upon IOH laboratory receipt is approximately 3-5 days.**

The ordering process in EPIC will not change (*Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* NAAT Assay, Test Code M102) and specimens should still be delivered to the IOH clinical laboratory.

Due to the complexities of this process, the ability for “add-on” testing will not be possible. For this reason, if *Trichomonas vaginalis* molecular testing is also required for patient care, we require a second specimen be collected and sent in the appropriate collection device (see laboratory test catalog entry <https://bjhlab.testcatalog.org/show/LAB3870-1>). Testing for trichomonas will still be performed by the IOH laboratory.

This shortage is currently affecting all methods and laboratories testing for chlamydia and gonorrhea nationally. The CDC has issued guidance regarding the management and diagnosis of patients during this shortage which can be accessed at <https://www.cdc.gov/std/general/DCL-Diagnostic-Test-Shortage.pdf>.






If you have any questions, please contact Barnes Jewish Hospital Laboratory customer services (314-362-1470) or Neil Anderson MD (314-362-1307).

Thank you,

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Specimen collection for GONORRHEA and CHLAMYDIA testing

Collect ≥ 10 mL of urine			
Acceptable	No Additive UA Tube (yellow top) 	Sterile Cup w/orange screw cap lid 	
	UA Tube w/Preservative (red/yellow top) 	Urine Culture Tube (gray top) 	Urine Collection Cup w/blue screw cap lid 
Not Acceptable	Xpert Urine Specimen Collection Kit 