



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
State Laboratory of Public Health




Pat McCrory
Governor

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Laboratory Director

September 10, 2014

TO: Local Health Department Directors
Local Health Department Family Planning Clinic Supervisors
Local Health Department Prenatal Clinic Supervisors
Local Health Department STD Clinic Supervisors
Local Health Department Laboratory Managers

FROM: Evelyn M. Foust, CPM, MPH, Head, Communicable Disease Branch 
Belinda Pettiford, MPH, Head, Women's Health Branch 
Scott J. Zimmerman, DrPH, MPH, HCLD (ABB), Director, State Laboratory of Public Health 

SUBJECT: Expanded Testing for *Chlamydia trachomatis*/*Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, effective September 15, 2014

The current NC State Laboratory of Public Health (NCSLPH) testing criteria for chlamydial and gonorrheal infection have been in place for the past twelve years. This has included screening of sexually active asymptomatic non-pregnant women 24 years of age and younger undergoing pelvic examination at local health departments. Patients of any age who are pregnant or symptomatic can also be screened, and additional reasons for testing were added in 2007 to include asymptomatic women over age 24 for chlamydia retest at three months post-treatment, sex partner referral, high risk history, or for chlamydia testing prior to IUD insertion.

An increase in chlamydia/gonorrhea testing capacity at the NCSLPH now allows us to expand current testing criteria, effective September 15, 2014, to include **sexually active asymptomatic non-pregnant women 25 years of age and younger** who are seen at local health departments. Women aged 25 years are expected to have rates of infection almost as high as those for younger women, so this expanded testing should allow many infected women to be identified and treated. Chlamydia/gonorrhea testing services from the NCSLPH are available only to local health department patients that meet one of the following testing criteria:

1. Vaginal specimens from women with syndromes compatible with *Chlamydia trachomatis*/*Neisseria gonorrhoeae* infection;
2. Vaginal specimens from pregnant women;
3. Vaginal specimens from asymptomatic women 25 years of age or younger;
4. Vaginal specimens from women for chlamydia/gonorrhea retest at three months post-treatment;
5. Vaginal specimens from women due to sex partner referral;
6. Vaginal specimens from women with high risk history (new or multiple partners); or
7. Vaginal specimens from women for chlamydia/gonorrhea testing prior to IUD insertion (if required per CDC STD Screening Guidelines based on screening criteria).

The test request form (DHHS #4011) remains unchanged. CDC funding requirements stipulate that all requested information on this form be provided for each patient tested in order to justify the need for continued testing. Please check carefully to make sure that all requested information is completed on these test request forms, so that we may continue to make *Chlamydia trachomatis*/*Neisseria gonorrhoeae* testing available to you.

Thank you again for your support of this valuable program. If you have any questions, please call Myra Brinson (State Lab) at 919-807-8835, Cheryl Kovar (WHB) at 919-707-5719, or Vickie Mobley (HIV/STD) at 919-715-8179.

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Women's Health Regional Nurse Consultants
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