



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

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GOVERNOR

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NEW MOLECULAR TEST FOR *TRICHOMONAS* AVAILABLE

November 6, 2013

Dear Colleagues:

On November 18, 2013, the Michigan Department of Community Health Bureau of Laboratories (MDCH BOL) will begin offering a nucleic acid amplified test (NAAT) for *Trichomonas vaginalis* (*T. vaginalis*) on a fee-for-service basis. The test will be available for \$11.50 when ordered in conjunction with non-culture testing for *Chlamydia trachomatis* (CT) and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (GC) or CT only. Testing will be available on endocervical, vaginal swabs and urine specimens from symptomatic and asymptomatic women. The test is performed on the same specimen collected for CT/GC testing.

Traditional methods for the detection of trichomoniasis include the direct wet mount examination and culture. The accuracy of wet mounts is highly dependent on the skill of the individual performing the test with sensitivity of the test ranging from 51 to 65%. Culture has a specificity of 100%, but the sensitivity ranges from 75 to 96%. Newer tests for trichomoniasis including enzyme immunoassay, hybridization probes and NAATs are available. NAATs are the most sensitive tests with sensitivities and specificities of 95-100%. The Gen Probe Aptima *Trichomonas vaginalis* Assay that will be offered by MDCH is currently the only FDA approved NAAT.

Requests for *T. vaginalis* testing must be submitted on the newly revised DCH-1248 Test Request Form (available at: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/DCH-1248.12.11_372085_7.pdf) even if CT/GC or CT only tests are submitted on a non-bill requisition (DCH-1167 or DCH-1167C). Medicaid (other than Plan First) or private insurance will be billed based on information provided with the requisition. If no billing information is provided or the patient is not eligible, the submitter will be billed. Testing will initially be available only at the MDCH Lansing Laboratory, but may become available at the Saginaw County Health Department if testing volume is sufficient.

For additional information, please see the Laboratory Services Guide at: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/tvaginalis_LSG_info_438842_7.doc. If you have any questions about about specimen submission or testing, please contact Dr. James Rudrik at 517-335-9641.