

Infection Sciences
Pathology Sciences Building
North Bristol NHS Trust
Southmead Hospital
Bristol BS10 5NB

1st September 2023

Dear Colleagues,

Re: Laboratory diagnosis of *Trichomonas vaginalis* (TV)

We are writing to inform you about a change to the existing arrangements for the laboratory diagnosis of *Trichomonas vaginalis* (TV). Currently, the laboratory employs two different testing approaches for the identification of TV from vaginal samples. For symptomatic women considered at “high-risk” of sexually transmitted infection (STI) (i.e., samples from genitourinary medicine services, or where TV is suspected) and all symptomatic pregnant women, a broth-based culture is performed. All other samples undergo wet-preparation microscopy, which is recognised to have poor sensitivity compared to culture. From the 04/12/23, these tests will be withdrawn from our test repertoire and replaced with a nucleic acid amplification assay (NAAT) utilising the Aptima® *Trichomonas vaginalis* assay which has been shown to significantly improve sensitivity over traditional culture methods and improve turn-around times.

Symptomatic women at risk of STI and all symptomatic pregnant women

For these patients, we will require an Aptima® multi-test NAAT swab to be sent in addition to the routine swabs sent for culture. Testing for *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* and *Chlamydia trachomatis* can also be undertaken using the same NAAT sample.

Symptomatic, non-pregnant women, considered at low risk of STI

For these patients, if there are concerns about TV infection, then a TV NAAT can be requested separately through ICE. This will require an additional Aptima® multi-test NAAT swab to be taken and sent with swabs for routine culture. Please note that samples requesting TV NAAT, that are received without the appropriate swab, will be rejected.

The samples recommended for each scenario are illustrated below:

Scenario	Samples required	Requests
Symptomatic, high risk of STI (pregnant/non-pregnant)	Aptima® NAAT multi-test swab	<i>N.gonorrhoeae</i> NAAT <i>C.trachomatis</i> NAAT <i>T.vaginalis</i> NAAT
	High vaginal liquid swab	Routine culture
Symptomatic, pregnant, low risk of STI	Aptima® NAAT multi-test swab High vaginal liquid swab	<i>T.vaginalis</i> NAAT Routine culture
Symptomatic, non-pregnant, low risk of STI	High vaginal liquid swab	Routine culture
Concerns about TV (e.g., ongoing symptoms with negative routine culture)	Aptima® NAAT multi-test swab	<i>T.vaginalis</i> NAAT



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Severn Pathology
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Please contact us with any queries.

Yours sincerely

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