



New 'STI Screening' Tab for e-Ordering

Over recent months we have seen increasing instances of STI associated e-ordering leading to incorrect specimen collected, incorrect testing, and the need for specimen recollects. Investigation has shown the underlying causes to be multifactorial but one of the primary causes has been the inability to request chlamydia/gonorrhoea/trichomonas testing from multiple body sites at the same time.

After much discussion at Pathlab along with consultation with colleagues in sexual health clinics and the community we have decided to introduce a new STI Screening tab on the e-ordering system. This tab is predominantly focused on patients requiring STI screening as opposed to being for STI symptomatic testing but tests on this tab can still be used in this setting. You will need to use existing tabs for other Microbiology tests in symptomatic patients, e.g. vaginal swab for BV/Thrush.

Below is the new STI screening tab. It should be noted that chlamydia/gonorrhoea/trichomonas has been removed from the Common, Microbiology, Antenatal, and Cervical Screening tabs, you must go to the STI Screening tab to request these STI tests.

For screening guidelines see: <https://sti.guidelines.org.nz/sexual-health-check/>

Chlamydia and N.gonorrhoea PCR (includes Trichomonas on some sites).

Collect a BD molecular swab (green) or BD molecular urine (yellow).

Recommended samples depending on anatomy and sexual contacts:

- Chlamydia/Gono/Trichomonas PCR - Vaginal Swab
- Chlamydia/Gono/Trichomonas PCR - Urine (1st catch)
- Chlamydia/Gono PCR - Rectal Swab
- Chlamydia/Gono PCR - Throat Swab

Other options if required:

- Chlamydia/Gono/Trichomonas PCR - Urethral Swab
- Chlamydia/Gono PCR - Eye Swab

Serology

HIV and Syphilis Serology is recommended on all Sexual Health Screens

- HIV Serology
- Syphilis Serology

Other serology tests to consider if risk factors present:

- Hepatitis B surface Antigen
- Hepatitis C Antibodies
- Hepatitis A IgG Antibodies
- Serology Clinical Details

Herpes Simplex Virus PCR (if symptomatic)

Collect in Viral Transport Media with a rigid swab (Green VTM or purple UTM).

- Herpes Simplex Virus PCR
(Specify collection site/s on the next page)

The changes to e-ordering will come into effect on Wednesday 7th August. We will be monitoring these changes over coming weeks and welcome your feedback as further development will be performed if required.

Drs Michael Addidle, Vani Sathyendran, Vivian Black, Clinical Microbiologists
Murray Robinson, Service Lead, Microbiology & Molecular Pathology

Please ensure all members of your institution receive a copy of this clinical update.

All Clinical Updates are now on the News page on our website. www.pathlab.co.nz