



To: Northern Light Laboratory Clients

From: Microbiology

Subject: Vaginitis PCR Panel

Date: April 2nd, 2026

Dear Northern Light Clients:

The Microbiology department will be implementing a new Vaginitis PCR Panel, with a planned go-live date of April 27th, 2026. This assay will replace traditional vaginitis culture methods for eligible patients.

This updated testing platform offers several advantages, including improved sensitivity, enhanced diagnostic accuracy, and reduced turn around time, allowing for more timely and effective patient care.

Key Changes and Important Information

- **New Collection Device Required:**

This assay requires the orange Aptima multitest swab. No other collection devices will be accepted.

- **Patient Age Criteria:**

Patients 14 years of age and older: Vaginitis PCR panel will be performed

Patients under 14 years of age: Vaginitis culture (Vag PP) will be performed

- **Discontinued Testing:**

The Vaginitis Reproductive Culture (Vag rep) will no longer be available

- **Combined Testing Capability:**

The same orange Aptima multitest swab can be used for both:

- Vaginitis PCR Panel

- Gonorrhea and Chlamydia testing

- Only one swab collection is required when both tests are ordered

- **Trichomonas Testing:**

The Vaginitis PCR panel includes Trichomonas

- A separate STD Tri Panel cannot be ordered with this panel

- A STD Panel (Gonorrhea and Chlamydia) should be ordered if STD testing is needed.

Action Required

Please ensure all clinical staff are educated on:

- The new collection requirements
- Appropriate test ordering practices
- Changes to available testing options

Proper adherence to these updates is critical to avoid specimen rejection and ensure optimal patient care.

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