



Memorandum

TO: Rhode Island Hospital, The Miriam Hospital and Newport Hospital
Medical Staff, House Staff Officers, Nursing Managers, and Brown
Health Laboratory Outreach Clients

FROM: Dr. Tao Hong
Director of Microbiology

DATE: August 11, 2025

SUBJECT: NEW Vaginitis PCR Assay and NEW collection swab for STI testing

NEW Vaginitis PCR Assay:

Effective **August 19th**, 2025, the Molecular Microbiology Laboratory will be changing vendors for vaginitis testing.

OLD LifeChart Order Name:

- VAGINITIS PCR PANEL (BACTERIAL VAGINOSIS, CANDIDA SPP, TRICHOMONAS)

NEW LifeChart Order Name:

- VAGINITIS NAAT PANEL (BV, CANDIDA, TRICHOMONAS)

The new vaginitis panel will be performed on our Hologic instrument, replacing the current assay from BD. This new panel will detect organisms associated with bacterial vaginosis (BV), vulvovaginal candidiasis, and trichomoniasis. It will report results for the following: BV, Candida species group (*C. albicans*, *C. tropicalis*, *C. parapsilosis*, *C. dubliniensis*), *Candida glabrata*, and *Trichomonas vaginalis*.

Specimen Requirements:

- Vaginal sample (patient or clinician collected) using the **(NEW) Aptima Multitest Swab**

NEW collection swab for STI testing:

In addition to its use with our NEW Vaginitis PCR Assay, the NEW Aptima Multitest Swab will also be used for our current Gonorrhoeae, Chlamydia, and Trichomonas assays to test from the following sources: vaginal (patient or clinician collected), clinician collected rectal, and clinician collected throat specimens. **Gonorrhoeae, Chlamydia, and Trichomonas testing will still be performed on urine using our current urine collection kit.**

We will no longer be accepting endocervical or urethral specimens as vaginal swabs and first catch urine samples are the recommended sample types for females and males, respectively, and have comparable sensitivities/specificities to the discontinued specimen swabs/sources.

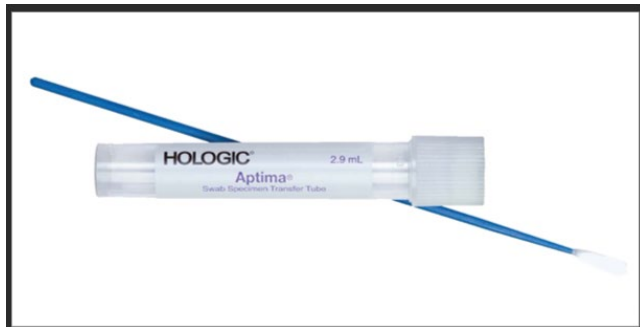
NEW Ordering information:

Aptima Multitest Swab Collection Kit

- Product #: PRD-03546



OLD swabs that will be discontinued for testing:



For questions, please do not hesitate to contact Missy Andrade, Manager (401-444-8844), Dr. Tao Hong PhD (401-444-3144), or Dr. Sara Geffert, MD (401-444-4421).