HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS'

GUIDE to Bacterial SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STI)

WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY HEALTH unit
Bureau de santé de Windsor-comté d'Essex

February 2025

The Windsor-Essex County Health Unit (WECHU) is dedicated to providing public health programs and services to the community. Public health programs keep our community healthy by promoting improved health, preventing disease and injury, controlling threats to human life and function, and facilitating social conditions to ensure equal opportunity in attaining health for all.

Our Health Unit, in partnership with our agencies and health care providers, seeks to enable all Windsor and Essex County residents to be as healthy as possible.

WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY HEALTH UNIT
1005 Ouellette Avenue, Windsor, ON, N9A 4J8
www.wechu.org | 519-258-2146 | Fax: 226-783-2132
Infectious Disease Prevention (extension 1420)

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Introduction

Bacterial sexually transmitted infections (STIs), such as gonorrhea, chlamydia, and syphilis, are increasing across Ontario and locally, in Windsor and Essex County. These infections pose a serious health risk to individuals and their partners. Complications from acquiring these infections range from chronic pelvic pain, infertility, and sterility, to more systemic infections of other organs, such as the heart and brain.

Clinicians play a key role in assessing all patients for risk factors and screening those identified as at risk for STIs. As patients may be asymptomatic, making sexual health a part of your routine assessment can help to identify cases and prevent complications and further transmission.

This manual provides clinicians with clinical guidelines for screening and management of patients with STIs and their contacts, and information about ordering medications and reporting to the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit. The Health Unit is also available for individual consultation.

Duty to Report

Gonorrhea, chlamydia, and syphilis are considered diseases of public health significance (DOPHS) and, as such, must be reported to your local public health unit. The Health Protection and Promotion Act 1990 (HPPA), R.S.O., 1990, and Ontario Regulation 135/18 outlines the requirements for physicians, practitioners, and institutions to report designated Diseases of Public Health Significance (DOPHS) to the Medical Officer of Health.

All clinically diagnosed, probable, and confirmed STI cases must be reported to the Health Unit by the next business day. This includes the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and confirmed or suspected cases of Hepatitis. Please complete the relevant Reporting Form found under the "Forms" section of our website at www.wechu.org/forms and fax to 226-783-2132.

This allows the Health Unit to conduct surveillance, ensure that clients and contacts are managed according to treatment guidelines to prevent secondary transmission, and develop population-level approaches to mitigate risks for acquiring STIs.

Section A:
National Guidelines for Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, and Syphilis

This section consists of quick reference resources for the management of bacterial STIs. For more detailed and up-to-date information, refer to the Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Blood-borne Infections.

Chlamydia Treatment

The following treatment options are recommended in the absence of contraindication. Consult product monographs for contraindications and side effects.

Caution: Refer to the health advisory issued by Health Canada about azithromycin and risk of cardiovascular complications and death.

Anogenital and conjunctival chlamydia

Non-pregnant and non-lactating adults

Preferred treatment	Alternative treatment
• **Doxycycline** 100 mg PO BID for 7 days [A-I] or • **Azithromycin** 1 g PO in a single dose [A-I]	• **Levofloxacin** 500 mg PO once a day for 7 days [B-III] [1]

Note: Azithromycin may be preferred when poor compliance is anticipated.

Pregnant and lactating people [2]

- **Azithromycin** 1 g PO in a single dose [B-I]
  or
- **Amoxicillin** 500 mg PO TID for 7 days [A-I]
  or
- **Erythromycin** 2 g/day PO in divided doses for 7 days [B-I]
  or
- **Erythromycin** 1g/day PO in divided doses for 14 days [B-I]

Notes:

- Data are limited regarding the use of azithromycin in pregnancy, however many experts believe it has an acceptable risk-benefit profile. [3] [4] [5] [6] [7]
- Data on neonatal outcomes are limited.
- Erythromycin dosage refers to the use of erythromycin base. Equivalent dosages of other formulations may be substituted.
- Estolate formulation is contraindicated in pregnancy.
- Doxycycline and quinolones are contraindicated in pregnancy and in lactating people.

Nine (9) to 18 years of age

Preferred treatment	Alternative treatment
• **Doxycycline** 5 mg/kg/day PO in divided doses (max. 100 mg BID) for 7 days [A-I] or • **Azithromycin** 12–15 mg/kg (max. 1 g) PO in a single dose [A-I], if poor compliance is expected	• **Erythromycin base** 40 mg/kg/day PO in divided doses (max. 500 mg QID for 7 days or 250 mg QID for 14 days) [B-I] or • **Sulfamethoxazole** 75 mg/kg/day PO in divided doses (max. 1 g BID) for 10 days [B-II]

Notes:

- Erythromycin is associated with significantly higher gastrointestinal side effects than other treatment regimens. [8] [9] [10] [11] [12]
- Equivalent dosages of other formulations may be substituted for erythromycin base.
- Topical therapy for conjunctivitis is inadequate, systemic treatment is sufficient. [13]

Consult with a pediatric specialist or an experienced colleague and relevant clinical guidelines when chlamydia is diagnosed in a child. Perinatally acquired *C. trachomatis* can persist for up to three years. Consider sexual abuse when a chlamydial infection is diagnosed in any prepubertal child. [14]

Note: Suspected sexual abuse of children must be reported to the local child protection agency.

Reference: Government of Canada, 2024. Chlamydia and LGV guide: Treatment and follow-up. Retrieved from https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/infectious-diseases/sexual-health-sexually-transmitted-infections/canadian-guidelines/chlamydia-lgv/treatment-follow-up.html#a2.1.2

Gonorrhea Guide: Treatment & Follow-up

Treatment and follow-up guidance for *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* infections. The following information on the preferred treatment for uncomplicated gonorrhea in adults and adolescents consist of an interim guidance from the National Advisory Committee on Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infections. Alternative treatment options are also currently under review by the NAC-STBBI. Final recommendations will be available after the completion of the review currently underway.

Preferred treatment for all uncomplicated NG infections

Adults and adolescents 10 years of age and older
Ceftriaxone 500 mg IM as a single dose (monotherapy)

Alternative treatments for uncomplicated NG infections

Note: The following alternative treatment options are **currently under review** by the NAC-STBBI. Continue referring to them until the completion of the review currently underway.

Consider alternative treatment options for uncomplicated NG infections in the following circumstances:

- If access to IM injection is not available
- If the individual refuses an injection
- If the individual is allergic to cephalosporins or has a history of severe non-IgE-mediated reactions to penicillins (e.g., Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis, drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms, interstitial nephritis or hemolytic anemia).

Alternative treatment for anogenital infections

Adults and adolescents 10 years of age and older
Cefixime 800 mg PO in a single dose [A-I] **PLUS** **Doxycycline** 100 mg PO BID x 7 days [B-III] 1 15 16 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

Notes:

- This regimen is recommended if there is macrolide resistance or contraindication to macrolide use.
- Doxycycline is contraindicated in pregnant and lactating individuals.

Alternative treatment for pharyngeal infections

Adults and adolescents 10 years of age and older

Cefixime 800 mg PO in a single dose [A-I] **PLUS**

Azithromycin 1 g PO in a single dose [B-II] [1] [15] [16] [19] [20] [21] [22] [23] [24] [25] [26] [27] [28]

Cephalosporin allergy or resistance or severe non-IgE-mediated reaction to penicillins

Adults and adolescents 10 years of age and older

Azithromycin 2 g PO in a single dose [A-I] **PLUS**

Gentamicin 240 mg IM in a single dose [B-II] [29]

Notes:

- Consider administering gentamicin 240 mg IV infused over 30 minutes when IM route is not feasible.
- This combination therapy is not recommended in pregnancy.

Contraindications to macrolides and cephalosporins

Adults and adolescents 10 years of age and older

Gentamicin 240 mg IM [30] [31] IM in a single dose [B-II] **PLUS**

Doxycycline 100 mg orally twice daily for 7 days (unless contraindicated or there is documented tetracycline resistance) [B-III]

Notes:

- This regimen is recommended for people with macrolide and cephalosporin-resistant *N. gonorrhoeae*, or a history of anaphylactic reaction to macrolides and cephalosporins or contraindications to cephalosporins.
- If tetracycline resistance, use gentamicin only and perform a test of cure after completion of treatment.
- This combination therapy is not recommended in pregnancy.

Resistance to both cephalosporin and azithromycin with failure or contraindications to previously noted regimens

Ertapenem

Ertapenem has in-vitro activity but optimum dose/duration is undefined. Given the broad spectrum nature of this antimicrobial, use of this agent should be restricted to exceptional situations [32] [33] [34] [35].

Follow-up

Test of cure

A test of cure (TOC) is recommended for all positive sites in all cases. This is particularly important when regimens other than ceftriaxone 500 mg IM are used. Refer to the following table for more information on the timing for TOC [1].

Situation	Choice of test and timing for test of cure
Asymptomatic individuals	Obtain **NAAT** three to four weeks after completion of treatment.
TOC is performed within three weeks after completion of treatment	Obtain **culture** at least three days after completion of treatment.
Treatment failure is suspected more than three weeks after treatment (e.g., when symptoms persist or recur after treatment)	Obtain **both NAAT and culture**.

Notes:

- For asymptomatic individuals, a NAAT should be performed three to four weeks after the completion of treatment because residual nucleic acids from dead bacteria may be responsible for positive results less than three weeks after treatment [1].

Screening for reinfection

Repeat screening of people with a gonococcal infection is recommended six months post treatment, because of the risk of reinfection [38].

Reference: Government of Canada, 2024. Gonorrhea guide: Treatment and follow-up. Retrieved from https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/infectious-diseases/sexual-health-sexually-transmitted-infections/canadian-guidelines/gonorrhea/treatment-follow-up.html

Syphilis guide: Treatment and follow-up

This guide is about management of primary, secondary, latent and tertiary syphilis. Some information about neurosyphilis and congenital syphilis is included, however their treatment is outside the scope of this document. Individuals with these conditions should be managed by or in consultation with an infectious disease specialist or an experienced colleague.

Treatment

The following treatment options are recommended in the absence of contraindication. Consult product monographs for contraindications and side effects.

Recommended treatment of syphilis in non-pregnant adults

Stage	Preferred treatment	Alternative treatment for people with penicillin allergies
Primary, secondary and early latent syphilis	Benzathine penicillin G-LA 2.4 million units IM as a single dose [A-II] [2], [3], [4], [5], [6], [7].	• Doxycycline 100 mg PO BID for 14 days [B-II] [8], [9] • In exceptional circumstances and when close follow-up is assured: ◦ Ceftriaxone 1 g IV or IM daily for 10 days [B-II] [10]

Latent, late latent, cardiovascular syphilis and gumma	Benzathine penicillin G-LA 2.4 million units IM weekly for three (3) doses [AII] [11], [12]	• Consider penicillin desensitization
		  ◦ Doxycycline 100 mg PO BID for 28 days [B-II] [13]
		• In exceptional circumstances and when close follow-up is assured:
		  ◦ Ceftriaxone 1 g IV or IM daily for 10 days[C-III] [14]

All adults: Neurosyphilis	• Refer to a neurologist or infectious disease specialist	

Interim treatment guidance in the event of a Benzathine Penicillin G (Bicillin L-A) shortage is available.

Recommended treatment for infectious syphilis in pregnancy

Preferred treatment	Alternative treatment for people with penicillin allergies
Benzathine penicillin G-LA 2.4 million units IM as a single dose [B-II] or Benzathine penicillin G-LA 2.4 million units IM as a single dose weekly for two (2) doses [C-III]	• Strongly consider penicillin desensitization followed by treatment with penicillin [A-III] • There is no satisfactory alternative to penicillin for the treatment of syphilis in pregnancy. Insufficient data exist to recommend ceftriaxone in pregnancy

Reference: Government of Canada, 2024. Syphilis guide: Treatment and follow-up. Retrieved from https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/infectious-diseases/sexual-health-sexually-transmitted-infections/canadian-guidelines/syphilis/treatment-follow-up.html

****Benzathine Penicillin is available to order at the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit Please call the Health Unit at 519-258-2146 x 1420 to order.**

Section B:
The WECHU Reporting, Referral, & Medication Ordering Forms

This section consists of forms to:

- Report chlamydia, gonorrhea, chlamydia/ gonorrhea co-infection, and syphilis to the Health Unit; and
- Order free STI medications.

These forms may be subject to change. Please visit www.wechu.org/forms for the most updated version.

WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY HEALTH unit
Bureau de santé de Windsor-comté d'Essex

CHLAMYDIA TRACHOMATIS (CT)

HEALTH CARE PROVIDER INVESTIGATION & REPORTING FORM

The Health Protection and Promotion Act 1990 (HPPA), R.S.O., 1990, and Ontario Reg. 135/18, outlines the requirements for physicians, practitioners, and institutions to report any **disease of public health significance** to the Medical Officer of Health.

Completion of both pages of this form is required. The form is to be faxed by the next working day from the initial patient visit, to the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit (WECHU) – Infectious Disease Prevention Department (fax: 226-783-2132). **Refer to the *Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)* for diagnosis and management of STIs.**

DATE REPORTED (YY/MM/DD)	**REPORTING PROVIDER NAME**	**PHONE NUMBER** ( ) - ext.

SECTION A: PATIENT INFORMATION			
PATIENT NAME (FIRST) (MIDDLE) (LAST)	**SEX**	**DATE OF BIRTH (YY/MM/DD)**	**AGE**
ADDRESS (STREET) (CITY) (POSTAL CODE)			
HOME PHONE: ( ) -	**LANGUAGE SPOKEN:**		

☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**	Has the client been notified of the laboratory result, indicating infection?
☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**	Is the client pregnant? If yes, indicate gestational age: _____ weeks

SECTION B: PRESENTING SYMPTOMS			
✓ **FEMALES**	**Onset Date (YY/MM/DD)**	✓ **MALES**	**Onset Date (YY/MM/DD)**
☐ Asymptomatic (most common)		☐ Asymptomatic (most common)	
☐ Lower abdominal pain		☐ Conjunctivitis	
☐ Cervicitis		☐ Dysuria	
☐ Conjunctivitis		☐ Testicular pain	
☐ Dyspareunia		☐ Urethral discharge	
☐ Dysuria		☐ Urethral itch	
☐ Vaginal discharge		☐ Urethritis	
☐ Other, specify:		☐ Other, specify:	

SECTION C: RISKS FOR INFECTION AND COMPLICATIONS	
✓ **RISK FACTORS**	
☐ Sexual contact of a confirmed chlamydia case	☐ New sexual contact in the past 2 months
☐ Sex with same sex	☐ Alcohol and/or drug use
☐ Sex with opposite sex	☐ Those with street involvement/homeless
☐ No condom use	☐ Unprotected sex while traveling to endemic area (specify country): _____
☐ Condom breakage	☐ Sex trade worker
☐ Anonymous sex partners	
☐ Multiple sex partners	

Continued on page 2

SECTION D: INFECTION MANAGEMENT	
☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**	Was treatment provided to the client? If yes, specify medication & date below. If patients have a positive test, are symptomatic, or have a known positive contact, treatment is warranted. Empirical co-treatment is indicated when diagnosed with gonorrhea without waiting for test results of CT due to high probability of co-infection. **NOTE**: *Free* STIs medications can be ordered from the WECHU to have in your office for prompt treatment.

TREATMENT PER GUIDELINES FOR CHLAMYDIA IN ADULTS	
First Line Treatment ☐ Azithromycin 1 g PO single dose **OR** ☐ Doxycycline 100 mg PO BID for 7 days (*Not for use in pregnant/lactating individuals)	**DATE GIVEN (YY/MM/DD):**
Alternative Treatments ☐ Levofloxacin 500 mg PO once a day for 7 days **OR** ☐ Other, specify:	**DATE GIVEN (YY/MM/DD):**

☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**	Advise client to inform sexual partners to see a health care provider for testing and treatment. Inform client that WECHU can assist with anonymous partner notification.
#: _____	# of sexual partners identified by the client 60 days prior.

SECTION E: CLIENT EDUCATION	
☐	Counsel client regarding transmission and prevention methods. Advise client/contacts to abstain from or have protected intercourse of all types (anal, oral, and vaginal) until treatment of both partners is complete (i.e. after completion of multiple-dose treatment or for 7 days after single-dose therapy).
☐	Inform client to return for a test of cure if: symptoms or signs persist post-therapy; treatment compliance is suboptimal; the preferred treatment regimen was not used; the person is prepubertal; or the person is pregnant. When a test of cure is recommended, NAAT should be performed 3-4 weeks after completion of treatment. A test of cure is not routinely indicated if recommended treatment is taken AND symptoms and signs disappear AND there is no re-exposure to an untreated partner.
☐	Inform client that repeat testing for CT is recommended 3 months post-treatment, because the risk of reinfection is high.
☐	Inform client that a nurse from the WECHU may be contacting them.

* The **Public Health Lab Service Desk (1-877-604-4567)** is available to answer questions regarding specimen collection. An online test information index is also available at www.publichealthontario.ca.

REPORTING HEALTH CARE PROVIDER'S SIGNATURE: _____

The most current form is available on our website:
https://www.wechu.org/forms/

For more information: 519-258-2146 ext. 1420
Infectious Disease Prevention
www.wechu.org
FEBRUARY 2025/COMMUNITY/CHLAMYDIA

WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY HEALTH unit
Bureau de santé de Windsor-comté d'Essex

GONORRHEA

HEALTH CARE PROVIDER INVESTIGATION & REPORTING FORM

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Completion of both pages of this form is required. The form is to be faxed by the next working day from the initial patient visit, to the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit (WECHU) – Infectious Disease Prevention Department (fax: 226-783-2132). **Refer to the *Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)* for diagnosis and management of STIs.**

DATE REPORTED (YY/MM/DD)	**REPORTING PROVIDER NAME**	**PHONE NUMBER** ( ) - ext.

SECTION A: PATIENT INFORMATION			
PATIENT NAME (FIRST) (MIDDLE) (LAST)	**SEX**	**DATE OF BIRTH (YY/MM/DD)**	**AGE**
ADDRESS (STREET) (CITY) (POSTAL CODE)			
HOME PHONE: ( ) -	**LANGUAGE SPOKEN:**		

☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**	Has the client been notified of the laboratory result, indicating infection?
☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**	Is the client pregnant? If yes, indicate gestational age: _____ weeks

SECTION B: PRESENTING SYMPTOMS			
✓ **FEMALES**	**Onset Date (YY/MM/DD)**	✓ **MALES**	**Onset Date (YY/MM/DD)**
☐ Asymptomatic (most common)		☐ Asymptomatic	
☐ Lower abdominal pain		☐ Dysuria	
☐ Deep dyspareunia		☐ Testicular pain	
☐ Dysuria		☐ Urethral discharge	
☐ Rectal pain/discharge and proctitis		☐ Urethral itch	
☐ Abnormal vaginal bleeding		☐ Rectal pain/discharge and proctitis	
☐ Vaginal discharge		☐ Other, specify:	
☐ Other, specify:			

SECTION C: RISKS FOR INFECTION AND COMPLICATIONS	
✓ **RISKS**	
☐ Sexual contact of a confirmed gonorrhea case	☐ New sexual contact in the past 2 months
☐ Sex with same sex	☐ Alcohol and/or drug use
☐ Sex with opposite sex	☐ Those with street involvement/homeless
☐ No condom use	☐ Unprotected sex while traveling to endemic area (specify country): _____
☐ Condom breakage	☐ Sex trade worker
☐ Anonymous sex partners	
☐ Multiple sex partners	

Continued on page 2

SECTION D: INFECTION MANAGEMENT		
☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**	Was treatment provided to the client? If yes, specify medication & date below. All confirmed cases need to be treated and suspected cases should be considered for treatment. **NOTE**: *Free* STIs medications can be ordered from the WECHU to have in your office for prompt treatment.	
	**** NEW - TREATMENT PER GUIDELINES FOR UNCOMPLICATED GONORRHEA INFECTIONS IN ADULTS**	
	First-line Treatment ☐ Ceftriaxone **500mg** IM single dose (monotherapy)	**DATE GIVEN (YY/MM/DD):**
	Alternative Treatments ☐ Cefixime 800mg PO AND *Doxycycline 100mg PO BID x 7 days (*Not for use in pregnant/lactating individuals) **OR** ☐ Cefixime 800mg PO **AND** Azithromycin 1g PO	**DATE GIVEN (YY/MM/DD):**
	☐ Other:	**DATE GIVEN (YY/MM/DD):**
☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**	Advise client to inform sexual partners to see a health care provider for testing and treatment. Inform client that WECHU can assist with anonymous partner notification.	
#: _____	# of sexual partners identified by the client 60 days prior.	
SECTION E: CLIENT EDUCATION		
☐	Counsel client regarding transmission and prevention methods. Advise client/contact(s) to abstain from or have protected intercourse of all types (anal, oral, and vaginal) until at least 7 days after completion of *appropriate* treatment and the clients/contact(s) are asymptomatic.	
☐	****NEW - Test of Cure (TOC) is recommended for all positive Gonorrhea sites in all cases.** This is particularly important when regimens other than ceftriaxone 500mg IM are used. Obtain **NAAT** three to four weeks after completion of treatment OR obtain **culture** at least three days after completion of treatment. **If treatment failure is suspected more than three weeks after treatment (e.g., when symptoms persist or recur after treatment), complete both NAAT and Culture.**	
☐	Inform client that repeat testing for gonorrhea is recommended 6 months post-treatment, as reinfection is high.	
☐	Inform client that a nurse from the WECHU may be contacting them.	

* The **Public Health Lab Service Desk (1-877-604-4567)** is available to answer questions regarding specimen collection.
An online test information index is also available at www.publichealthontario.ca.

REPORTING HEALTH CARE PROVIDER'S SIGNATURE: _____

The most current form is available on our website:
https://www.wechu.org/forms/

For more information: 519-258-2146 ext. 1420
Infectious Disease Prevention
www.wechu.org
AUGUST 2021/COMMUNITY/GONORRHEA

WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY HEALTH unit
Bureau de santé de Windsor-comté d'Essex

GONORRHEA and CHLAMYDIA

HEALTH CARE PROVIDER INVESTIGATION & REPORTING FORM

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ADDRESS (STREET) (CITY) (POSTAL CODE)			
HOME PHONE: ( ) -	**LANGUAGE SPOKEN:**		

☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**	Has the client been notified of the laboratory result, indicating infection?
☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**	Is the client pregnant? If yes, indicate gestational age: _____ weeks

SECTION B: PRESENTING SYMPTOMS			
✓ **FEMALES**	**Onset Date (YY/MM/DD)**	✓ **MALES**	**Onset Date (YY/MM/DD)**
☐ Asymptomatic (most common)		☐ Asymptomatic	
☐ Lower abdominal pain		☐ Dysuria	
☐ Deep dyspareunia		☐ Testicular pain	
☐ Dysuria		☐ Urethral discharge	
☐ Rectal pain/discharge and proctitis		☐ Urethral itch	
☐ Abnormal vaginal bleeding		☐ Rectal pain/discharge and proctitis	
☐ Vaginal discharge		☐ Other, specify:	
☐ Other, specify:			

SECTION C: RISKS FOR INFECTION AND COMPLICATIONS	
✓ **RISKS**	
☐ Sexual contact of a confirmed gonorrhea or chlamydia case	☐ Multiple sex partners
☐ Sex with same sex	☐ New sexual contact in the past 2 months
☐ Sex with opposite sex	☐ Alcohol and/or drug use
☐ No condom use	☐ Those with street involvement/homeless
☐ Condom breakage	☐ Unprotected sex while traveling to endemic area (specify country): _____
☐ Anonymous sex partners	☐ Sex trade worker

Continued on page 2

SECTION D: INFECTION MANAGEMENT		
☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**	Was treatment provided to the client? If yes, specify medication & date below. All confirmed cases need to be treated and suspected cases should be considered for treatment. **NOTE**: *Free* STIs medications can be ordered from the WECHU to have in your office for prompt treatment.	
	**** NEW - TREATMENT PER GUIDELINES FOR UNCOMPLICATED GONORRHEA INFECTIONS AND CHLAMYDIA IN ADULTS**	
	First-line Treatment ☐ Ceftriaxone **500mg** IM single dose **AND** ☐ Azithromycin 1 g PO single dose	**DATE GIVEN (YY/MM/DD):**
	Alternative Treatments ☐ Cefixime 800mg PO **AND ***Doxycycline 100mg PO BID x 7 days (*Not for use in pregnant/lactating individuals) **OR** ☐ Cefixime 800mg PO **AND** Azithromycin 1g PO	**DATE GIVEN (YY/MM/DD):**
	☐ Other:	**DATE GIVEN (YY/MM/DD):**
☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**	Advise client to inform sexual partners to see a health care provider for testing and treatment. Inform client that WECHU can assist with anonymous partner notification.	
#: _____	# of sexual partners identified by the client 60 days prior.	

SECTION E: CLIENT EDUCATION	
☐	Counsel client regarding transmission and prevention methods. Advise client/contact(s) to abstain from or have protected intercourse of all types (anal, oral, and vaginal) until at least 7 days after completion of *appropriate* treatment and the clients/contact(s) are asymptomatic.
☐	**** NEW - Test of Cure (TOC) is recommended for all positive Gonorrhea sites in all cases.** This is particularly important when regimens other than ceftriaxone 500mg IM are used. Obtain **NAAT** three to four weeks after completion of treatment OR obtain **culture** at least three days after completion of treatment. **If treatment failure is suspected more than three weeks after treatment (e.g., when symptoms persist or recur after treatment), complete both NAAT and Culture.**
☐	Inform client that repeat testing for gonorrhea is recommended 6 months post-treatment, as reinfection is high.
☐	Inform client that a nurse from the WECHU may be contacting them.

* The **Public Health Lab Service Desk (1-877-604-4567)** is available to answer questions regarding specimen collection.
An online test information index is also available at www.publichealthontario.ca.

REPORTING HEALTH CARE PROVIDER'S SIGNATURE: _____

The most current form is available on our website:
https://www.wechu.org/forms/

For more information: 519-258-2146 ext. 1420
Infectious Disease Prevention
www.wechu.org
AUGUST 2021/COMMUNITY/GC-CHLAMYDIA

WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY HEALTH unit
Bureau de santé de Windsor-comté d'Essex

SYPHILIS

HEALTH CARE PROVIDER INVESTIGATION & REPORTING FORM

Completion of this form is required and faxed by the next working day from the initial patient visit, to the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit – Clinical Services (fax: 226-783-2132). **Refer to the Health Unit or *Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections* for diagnosis and management of STIs, including complex cases.**

DATE REPORTED (YY/MM/DD)	REPORTING PROVIDER NAME	PHONE NUMBER ( ) - ext.

SECTION A: PATIENT INFORMATION

PATIENT NAME (FIRST) (MIDDLE) (LAST)	SEX	DATE OF BIRTH (YY/MM/DD)	AGE
ADDRESS (STREET) (CITY) (POSTAL CODE)			
HOME PHONE: ( ) -	LANGUAGE SPOKEN:		

SECTION B: INFECTION MANAGEMENT

Reason for Testing	☐ Asymptomatic with risk factors, other than contact ☐ Contact tracing ☐ Routine – Prenatal Screen ☐ Other, specify: _____	☐ Symptomatic ☐ Immigration Screening ☐ Routine – Medical Procedure
☐ Yes ☐ No	Was the client tested for HIV? Date (YY/MM/DD): _____ Results: _____	
☐ Yes ☐ No	Has the client been notified of the laboratory result, indicating infection?	
☐ Yes ☐ No	Is the client pregnant? If yes, gestational age: ___ weeks	
Working diagnosis	☐ Primary ☐ Secondary ☐ Early Latent ☐ Late Latent ☐ Tertiary ☐ Neurosyphilis ☐ Treating with 3 doses as cannot rule-out a previous undiagnosed infection ☐ Client was previously diagnosed, appropriately treated, and there is ***no chance of re-infection*** (i.e., new exposure). No additional follow up is required. **Do not complete the rest of the form.**	

How are you treating the client?	STAGE OF SYPHILLIS	MEDICATION, DOSE, FREQUENCY	EFFECTIVE DATE (YY/MM/DD)
	☐ Primary ☐ Secondary ☐ Early latent (<1 year)	☐ Benzathine penicillin G (Bicillin-LA) 2.4 million units IM once (**NOTE: Not to be confused with short-acting benzylpenicillin (penicillin G**)) ☐ Other:	
	☐ Late latent	☐ Benzathine penicillin G (Bicillin-LA) 2.4 million units IM weekly x 3 doses ☐ Other:	
	☐ Neurosyphilis	☐ Penicillin G ___ million units IV q4h x ____ days	
	☐ Tertiary	☐ Refer to Infectious Diseases Specialist.	N/A

SECTION C: PATIENT EDUCATION

☐	Counsel client regarding how syphilis is transmitted and prevention methods, including safer sex. Advise clients and contacts to abstain from unprotected intercourse of all types (anal, oral, and vaginal) during infectious stages until treatment of both partners complete and an adequate serologic response is determined.
☐	Inform client that follow-up serology tests need to be performed to monitor infection. Refer to *Canadian Guidelines* for follow-up serology test schedule for various stages of syphilis.
☐	Advise client to inform sexual partners to follow up with a health care provider to get testing and treatment. The Health Unit can assist with contact tracing and anonymous partner notification.
☐	Inform client/parent that a nurse from the Health Unit will be contacting them. They may also call the Health Unit directly at 519-258-2146 ext. 1420.

PRESENTING SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF PRIMARY, SECONDARY, OR LATENT: Varies, depending on stage of syphilis			
√ **SIGNS & SYMPTOMS**	**Onset Date (YY/MM/DD)**	√ **SIGNS & SYMPTOMS**	**Onset Date (YY/MM/DD)**
☐ Asymptomatic		☐ Malaise	
☐ Patchy or diffuse alopecia		☐ Meningitis	
☐ Chancre		☐ Mucus lesions	
☐ Condyloma lata		☐ Rash	
☐ Fever		☐ Retinitis	
☐ Headaches		☐ Uveitis	
☐ Lymphadenopathy		☐ Other, specify:	

RISK FACTORS: Routinely screen individuals who are pregnant or planning a pregnancy. It is recommended that a diagnosis of syphilis should be considered in anyone with compatible signs or symptoms and also for those with risk factors.	
√ **Risks**	
☐ Sexual contact of a confirmed syphilis case ☐ Sex with same sex ☐ Sex with opposite sex ☐ No condom use ☐ Condom breakage ☐ Anonymous sex partners ☐ Multiple sex partners	☐ New sexual contact in the past 2 months ☐ Alcohol and/or drug use ☐ Those with street involvement/homeless ☐ History of syphilis, HIV, and other STIs ☐ Unprotected sex while traveling to endemic area (specify country): _____ ☐ Sex trade worker

REPORTING HEALTH CARE PROVIDER'S SIGNATURE: _____

The Health Protection and Promotion Act 1990 (HPPA), R.S.O., 1990, and Ontario Reg. 135/18, outlines the requirements for physicians, practitioners, and institutions to report any **disease of public health significance** to the Medical Officer of Health.

WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY HEALTH UNIT
Bureau de santé de Windsor-comté d'Essex

519-258-2146 Ext. 1420 | www.wechu.org

STI Medication Order Form

Fax Completed Form to 226-783-2132

Allow one week for processing. Please call for expedited ordering.

The Windsor-Essex County Health Unit provides provincially funded medications to healthcare providers for the treatment of Sexually Transmitted Infections at **NO COST**.

Physicians are encouraged to maintain an appropriate amount of stock based on client needs.

Office/Physician: _____ Telephone #: _____

Address: _____

Contact Person: _____ Fax: _____

Date of order: _____ Pick-up: ☐ Windsor ☐ Leamington

Pick up between 08:30 and 4:30 Monday to Friday at Health Unit Lobby Window

Medications based on Treatment Guidelines To be used for STI infections Only	**# of Doses**	**Expiry and Lot Number** (office use)
Azithromycin 1g PO in a single dose 250mg x 4 tablets = 1 dose		
Doxycycline 100 mg po bid x 7 days		
**New - Ceftriaxone 500 mg IM single dose 250mg vial x 2 = 1 dose		
Diluent for ceftriaxone ☐ Lidocaine Hydrochloride injection 1% **OR** ☐ Sterile Water		
Gentamycin is only available through Health Canada's Special Access Program Please call the Health Unit at 519-258-2146 x 1420 for inquiries		

For WECHU Office Use Only:

Date Order Received: _____ Processed by: _____

Date Order Ready: _____ Contacted physician office: _____
(date & initials)

Date picked up: _____ Picked-up by: _____

Section C:
Public Health Ontario Laboratory Testing

This section consists of the Public Health Ontario resources related to specimen collection. Other laboratories may have alternative procedures and testing kits. These resources are subject to change: For more detailed and up-to-date information about Public Health Ontario Laboratory Services, call the Public Health Lab Service Desk (1-877-604-4567) or visit www.publichealthontario.ca.

Public Health Ontario | Santé publique Ontario

Customer no.:

Requisition for Specimen Containers and Supplies

Please note: Specimen containers and supplies are supplied to submitters exclusively for samples that are to be tested by the Public Health Ontario Laboratories.
Current version of Public Health Laboratory requisitions are available at www.publichealthontario.ca/requisitions.

Requisitioner's name:	
Telephone no.:	Fax no.:
Date:	Authorized Signature:

Ship to (include Client name, Address and Postal code):

Name	Kits	Item #	UoM	Quantity
Chlamydia trachomatis & Neisseria gonorrhoeae NAA testing	Roche cobas® PCR Urine Sample kit	300316	Box of 100	
	Roche cobas® PCR Media Dual Swab Sample kit	300317	Box of 100	
DF	Direct Fluorescence	390047	EA.	
Enteric Outbreak kit	2 vials: Green-Enteric Bacteriology and White-Virology / Toxin testing	390036	EA.	
FAECES	Enteric Bacteriology – Health Units Only (Cary Blair)	390049	EA.	
GL	Gastric Lavage - M. tuberculosis	390043	EA.	
PARA	Faeces - Routine Parasitology	390033	PKG / 3	
TB	TB kit Sputum Body fluids and tissues (90 ml sterile container)	390042	EA.	
CD	C. difficile analysis or toxin studies (90 ml sterile container)	390054	EA.	
Virus Culture (tissue)	Universal Transport Media (UTM)	390075	EA.	
Water	Private Citizen Water - bacteriological	390040	EA.	
	Sterile - Water bottles - 250 ml (Official Agency Use Only)	300013	EA.	
PWO kit	Pinworm Ova Kit	390045	EA.	
BL-S	Blood, clotted Serology - Syphilis / Virus / Other	390044	PKG / 6	
BP	Bordetella pertussis (Whooping cough)	390052	PKG / 2	
CHL(C)	**Female**, Chlamydia trachomatis culture (Universal Transport Media-UTM)	390083	PKG / 6	
	Male, Chlamydia trachomatis culture (Universal Transport Media-UTM)	390084	PKG / 6	
MP / CP - Resp	Mycoplasma pneumoniae / Chlamydophila pneumoniae - Respiratory	390085	PKG / 6	
F	Fungus culture kit (superficial / dermatophyte)	390048	PKG / 6	
GC	Neisseria gonorrhoeae culture	390051	PKG / 6	
MP	Genital Mycoplasma / Ureaplasma culture (Universal Transport Media-UTM)	390064	PKG / 6	
Prenatal	Rubella, Syphilis, Hep.B, HIV	390050	PKG / 6	
Virus Culture - Herpes / STI	Swab in transport medium (Universal Transport Media-UTM)	390081	PKG / 6	
Virus - Respiratory / Influenza	Nasopharyngeal swab in transport medium (Universal Transport Media-UTM)	390082	PKG / 6	
Virus - Enteric	Virus culture/electron microscopy / PCR & direct antigen testing	390087	PKG / 6	

Description	Item#	UoM	Quantity
Biohazard Bags - Clinical Specimens (Self-Seal)	300008	PKG / 100	
Test Requisition Bacterial Analysis of Water (Private Citizen - single sample) (Form # 3743-44)	300087	PKG / 100	
Test Requisition Bacterial Analysis of Water (Official Agency - multiple sample) (Form # 4321-44)	300089	PKG / 100	
General Test Requisition (Form # 97-44) **PHL**	300122	PKG / 100	
Test Requisition Prenatal (Form # 1739-44)	300086	PKG / 100	

Comments:

Date order received (yyyy/mm/dd):
Order filled by:
Date order shipped (yyyy/mm/dd):

F-SD-SCG-1003-009 *(21/11/16)*

Ontario

Fax completed requisitions to your closest Public Health Ontario Laboratory

Public Health Laboratories

Toronto (Warehouse)	81 Resources Road Etobicoke ON M9P 3T1	Email: PHOL.Warehouse@oahpp.ca Fax: 416 235-5753
Hamilton	250 Fennell Avenue West Box 2100 Hamilton ON L8N 3R5	Tel.: 905 385-5379 Fax: 905 385-0083 Toll free: 1-866-282-7376
Kingston	181 Barrie Street Box 240 Kingston ON K7L 4V8	Tel.: 613 548-6630 Fax: 613 547-1185 Toll free: 1-855-546-4745
London	Unit 102, 1200 Commissioners Rd. East, London, ON N5Z 4R3	Tel.: 519 455-9310 Fax: 519 455-3363 Toll free: 1-877-204-2666
Orillia	750 Memorial Avenue Box 600 Orillia ON L3V 6K5	Tel.: 705 325-7449 Fax: 705 329-6001 Toll free: 1-877-611-6998
Ottawa	2380 St. Laurent Boulevard Ottawa ON K1G 6C4	Tel.: 613 736-6800 Fax: 613 736-6820
Peterborough	99 Hospital Drive Box 265 Peterborough ON K9J 6Y8	Tel.: 705 743-6811 Fax: 705 745-1257
Sault Ste. Marie	160 McDougald Street Sault Ste. Marie ON P6A 3A8	Tel.: 705 254-7132 Fax: 705 945-6873 Toll free: 1-800-263-0409
Sudbury	1300 Paris Street Suite 2 Sudbury ON P3E 6H3	Tel.: 705 564-6917 Fax: 705 564-6918 Toll free: 1-888-564-6917
Thunder Bay	336 South Syndicate Avenue Thunder Bay ON P7E 1E3	Tel.: 807 622-6449 Fax: 807 622-5423
Timmins	67 Wilson Avenue Timmins ON P4N 2S5	Tel.: 705 267-6633 Fax: 705 360-2006 Toll free: 1-888-267-7181
Customer Service Centre	General inquiries	Email: customerservicecentre@oahpp.ca Tel.: 416 235-6556 Toll-free: 1-877-604-4567

General Test Requisition

Public Health Ontario | Santé publique Ontario

ALL sections of the form must be completed by authorized health care providers for each specimen submitted, or testing may be delayed or cancelled.
Verify that **all testing requirements** are met before collecting a specimen.
For **HIV, respiratory viruses, or culture isolate** requests, use the dedicated requisitions available at: publichealthontario.ca/requisitions

Submitter / Health Care Provider (HCP) Information

Licence No.: | Lab / Hospital or Facility Name:

HCP Full Name:

Address:

City: | Postal Code: | Province:

Tel: | Fax:

Copy to Other Lab / Health Unit / Authorized Health Care Provider (HCP)

Licence No.: | Other Lab / Health Unit / Facility Name:

HCP Full Name:

Address:

City: | Postal Code: | Province:

Tel: | Fax:

Patient Setting

- ☐ Clinic / Community
- ☐ ER (Not Admitted / Not Yet Determined)
- ☐ ER (Admitted)
- ☐ Inpatient (Non-ICU)
- ☐ ICU / CCU
- ☐ Congregate Living Setting

Testing Indication(s) / Criteria

- ☐ Diagnosis
- ☐ Screening
- ☐ Immune Status
- ☐ Follow-up / Convalescent
- ☐ Pregnancy / Perinatal
- ☐ Impaired Immunity
- ☐ Post-mortem

Other (Specify):

Signs / Symptoms

- ☐ No Signs / Symptoms
- ★ **Onset Date (yyyy-mm-dd):**
- ☐ Fever
- ☐ Rash
- ☐ STI
- ☐ Gastrointestinal
- ☐ Respiratory
- ☐ Hepatitis
- ☐ Meningitis / Encephalitis

Other (Specify):

Relevant Exposure(s)

- ☐ None / Not Applicable
- Most Recent Date (yyyy-mm-dd):
- Occupational Exposure / Needlestick Injury (Specify): ☐ Source ☐ Exposed

Other (Specify):

Relevant Travel(s)

- ☐ None / Not Applicable
- Most Recent Date (yyyy-mm-dd):

Travel Details:

Patient Information

Health Card No.:

Date of Birth (yyyy-mm-dd): | Sex: ☐ Male ◯ Female

Medical Record No.:

Last Name (per health card):

First Name (per health card):

Address: | Postal Code:

City: | Tel:

Investigation / Outbreak No. from PHO or Health Unit (if applicable):

Specimen Information

★ **Date Collected** (yyyy-mm-dd): | **Submitter Lab No.:**

- ☐ Whole Blood
- ☐ Serum
- ☐ Plasma
- ☐ Bone Marrow
- ☐ Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF)
- ☐ Nasopharyngeal Swab (NPS)
- ☐ Oropharyngeal / Throat Swab
- ☐ Sputum
- ☐ Bronchoalveolar Lavage (BAL)
- ☐ Endocervical Swab
- ☐ Vaginal Swab
- ☐ Urethral Swab
- ☐ Urine
- ☐ Rectal Swab
- ☐ Faeces

Other (Specify type AND body location):

Test(s) Requested

Enter each assay as per the publichealthontario.ca/testdirectory:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

For routine hepatitis A, B or C serology, complete this section instead:

Hepatitis A
- ☐ Immune Status (HAV IgG)
- ☐ Acute Infection (HAV IgM, signs/ symptoms info)

Hepatitis B
- ☐ Immune Status (anti-HBs)
- ☐ Chronic Infection (HBsAg + total anti-HBc)
- ☐ Acute Infection (HBsAg + total anti-HBc + IgM if total is positive)
- ☐ Pre-Chemotherapy Screening (anti-HBs + HBsAg + total anti-HBc)

Hepatitis C
- ☐ Current / Past Infection (HCV total antibodies)
  No immune status test for HCV is currently available.

Ontario

A Guide to Complete the PHO General Test Requisition

ALL sections of the form must be completed legibly for each specimen submitted, or testing may be delayed or cancelled.

The use of pre-populated fields is not recommended as the fields may be outdated or erroneously used for other patients. If pre-populated requisitions are used, make sure that all the fields are still applicable and current.

For HIV, respiratory viruses, cultured isolates, or environmental samples, please use the dedicated requisitions available at www.publichealthontario.ca/requisitions.

Submitter / Health Care Provider Information

1. The ordering health care provider must be authorized to order laboratory tests in Ontario as per the Laboratory and Specimen Collection Licensing Act O. Reg. 45 s. 18.
2. Fill all ordering health care provider information accurately for the test to be approved and results to be transmitted to the correct provider.
3. **HCP Full Name field:** laboratories and hospitals should provide the Laboratory Director as the submitter, or in medical clinics with rotating health care providers, include the name of the attending health care provider.
4. **Licence No. field:** fill with the OHIP billing number, CPSO number, or other regulated health care professions' college registration number.
5. **Copy To field:** in addition to the primary submitter, if a copy of the results need to be shared with another provider, complete the additional fields. If submitting from hospitals, include the name of the ordering HCP.

Patient Setting

1. Check the setting most applicable to the current patient encounter. Examples of congregate living settings include long-term care homes, shelters, group homes, and correctional facilities.

Testing Indication(s) / Criteria

1. Check or write the reason(s) for testing. This may assist in assay selection or interpretation at PHO.

Signs / Symptoms

1. Some tests may not be approved unless clinical information is detailed. Refer to the test menu for approval criteria.
2. **Onset Date field:** the star is a visual reminder to fill this field if signs or symptoms are present, as the field is often missed by submitters.

Relevant Exposure(s) / Relevant Travel(s)

1. Some tests may not be approved unless exposure or travel information is provided. Refer to the test menu for approval criteria.
2. **Occupational Exposure/Needlestick Injury field:** if applicable, specify whether the specimen is collected from the source of exposure or the exposed individual.

Patient Information

1. Fill all patient information accurately for the test to be approved and results to be assigned to the correct patient.
2. The patient identifiers on the specimen container must be identical to those on the requisition, or testing will be cancelled.
3. When a result is positive for a disease of public health significance, a report will be issued to the health unit where the patient resides as per the Health Protection and Promotion Act O. Reg. 569 s. 3. If the patient has no address listed, the report will be issued to the health unit where the ordering provider is located.
4. **Health Card No. field:** Do not leave blank. Instead, write "not available" if unknown.
5. **Investigation/Outbreak No. field:** if a number was assigned to the patient encounter by PHO or a health unit for the purpose of investigations, fill and make sure the number is accurate and current.

Specimen Information

1. **Date Collected field:** the star is a visual reminder to fill this field, as this field is often missed by submitters.
2. **Submitter Lab No. field:** Provide if available.
3. **Other field:** specify both the type of specimen (e.g. skin swab, lymph node biopsy, synovial fluid aspirate, unstained smear) and the body location (e.g. right arm, supraclavicular, left knee, vaginal).

Test(s) Requested

1. Enter each assay name individually as per PHO's current test menu: www.publichealthontario.ca/testdirectory. Test names must be CLEAR and LEGIBLE. Be as specific as possible. For assays with multiple organisms tested (i.e. multiplex testing), enter the assay name instead (for example, gastroenteritis virus detection).
2. Verify that the specimen type, collection, storage, and transport requirements are met before submission as per the test menu.
3. If testing requires pre-approval, contact PHO's laboratory Customer Service Centre (see below) for approval.
4. **Routine hepatitis A, B, and C Serology testing section:** for routine hepatitis A, B, or C serology requests, check one of the applicable boxes. If additional individual markers are required (e.g. HBsAg only for occupational exposures, HBeAg/anti-HBe for hepatitis B infection follow-up), these may be ordered individually in the free text fields above under Test(s) Requested. For acute hepatitis A and B infection testing, clinical information is required or testing may be cancelled or delayed.
5. PHO's laboratory only performs tests that are insured services within the meaning of Ontario's Health Insurance Act, s. 11.
6. No additional test will be added to the previously submitted specimens except under exceptional circumstances. If additional tests are required, please submit another specimen and requisition.

Technical Considerations

1. When integrating the General Test Requisition within the electronic medical record systems, please ensure that the overall layout stays the same, scale text (font size) automatically, and remove any options that 'scroll long text'.

Public Health Ontario's Laboratory

Customer Service Centre

Monday to Friday	7:30 am – 7:00 pm EST/EDT
Saturday	8:00 am – 3:45 pm EST/EDT

Tel.: 416-235-6556
Toll Free: 1-877-604-4567
Email: customerservicecentre@oahpp.ca
Website: www.publichealthontario.ca

Public Health Ontario | Santé publique Ontario

LABSTRACT – Updated May 2022

Chlamydia trachomatis and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* - Nucleic Acid Amplification Testing

Audience

Health care providers submitting specimens to Public Health Ontario's (PHO) laboratory for the detection of *Chlamydia trachomatis* (CT) and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (NG) by nucleic acid amplification testing (NAAT).

Update

In December 2021, PHO's laboratory changed CT/NG NAAT to the Roche cobas® CT/NG assay from the Hologic® Aptima Combo 2® assay. Since the change in assays was implemented, additional information have been updated:

1. Rectal and pharyngeal collections with the Roche cobas® CT/NG assay are now Health Canada approved. Performance data have been included in Table 2: Manufacturer reported test performance of the Roche cobas® assay for CT and NG. Performance data is for clinician collected specimens only. Results must be interpreted with caution if clinicians request patients to perform self-collection of rectal and pharyngeal specimens outside of a clinical setting.

2. The Canadian STI guidelines have been updated to recommend test of cure (TOC) testing for all *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* positive sites.

Test Information Sheets with a complete NAAT menu are available on the PHO website at publichealthontario.ca/test directory.

The following information is provided in this Labstract:

- Overview
- Specimen Collection Kits
- Limitations
- Medico-legal Investigations
- Confirmatory Testing

- Test of Cure
- Reporting
- Sensitivity and Specificity Data

Overview

PHO's laboratory accepts male or female urine, clinician-collected endocervical, clinician and patient-collected vaginal, rectal and pharyngeal site specimens when collected in a clinical setting for *Chlamydia trachomatis* (CT) and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (NG) for testing by NAAT. Urethral and penile meatal swabs are not included as part of the Roche cobas® assay and will not be accepted. NAAT is the recommended method for initial screening or testing of CT and NG collected from the approved anatomical sites listed above.

Neisseria gonorrhoeae (NG) culture is recommended plus NAAT when suspecting antimicrobial resistance, test of cure, symptomatic patients, pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), pregnancy, and sexual abuse/sexual assault.

Testing from all other anatomical sites require a CT or NG culture collection kit to be submitted. Specimens submitted for culture using a NAAT collection kit will be rejected. Specimens submitted using a NAAT collection kit for anatomical sites not listed above will be rejected.

Rectal and/or pharyngeal testing is recommended for individuals who have had unprotected sexual exposures at these sites and are in specific at-risk groups or have risk factors, including:

- gay, bisexual, and men who have sex with men, including trans women;
- individuals engaged in sex work or who have had sexual contact with someone engaging in sex work;
- individuals who are known contacts of those infected with CT or NG;
- individuals who have signs or symptoms of rectal or pharyngeal infection

Rectal and/or pharyngeal testing in individuals who have had exposures at these sites and are not in specific risk groups above may be considered in individual circumstances based on clinical evaluation or local epidemiology.

Please refer to PHO's Bacterial STI Testing: Quick Reference Guide for guidance on testing based on risk factors and clinical presentation.

Rectal bacterial sexually transmitted infections, including CT and NG, have been associated with increased risk of HIV infection in gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men, and transgender women. Screening for HIV is highly recommended in these individuals. Details about HIV serology testing at PHO can be found here: HIV Serology Test Information Sheet. Consider initiation of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV-negative individuals. For more information on PrEP visit ontarioprep.ca.

Specimen Collection Kits: NAAT for CT and NG at PHO's laboratory is performed using the Roche cobas® CT/NG assay and two collection kits are available for specimen collection and submission.

- The Roche cobas® Media Dual Swab Sample Kit contains two swabs, a flocked swab and a woven swab. The **flocked swab is only to be used for female endocervical swab collection** and the woven swab for all other swab collections as outlined below. Incoming primary swab specimen tubes with no swabs or with two swabs have not been collected according to the collection instructions and therefore will not be tested.

- The Roche cobas® Urine Sample Kit is used for urine specimen collection. Neat urine specimens will not be accepted and clients must transfer the appropriate amount of specimen to the approved collection kit (fill to between indicated lines on tube).

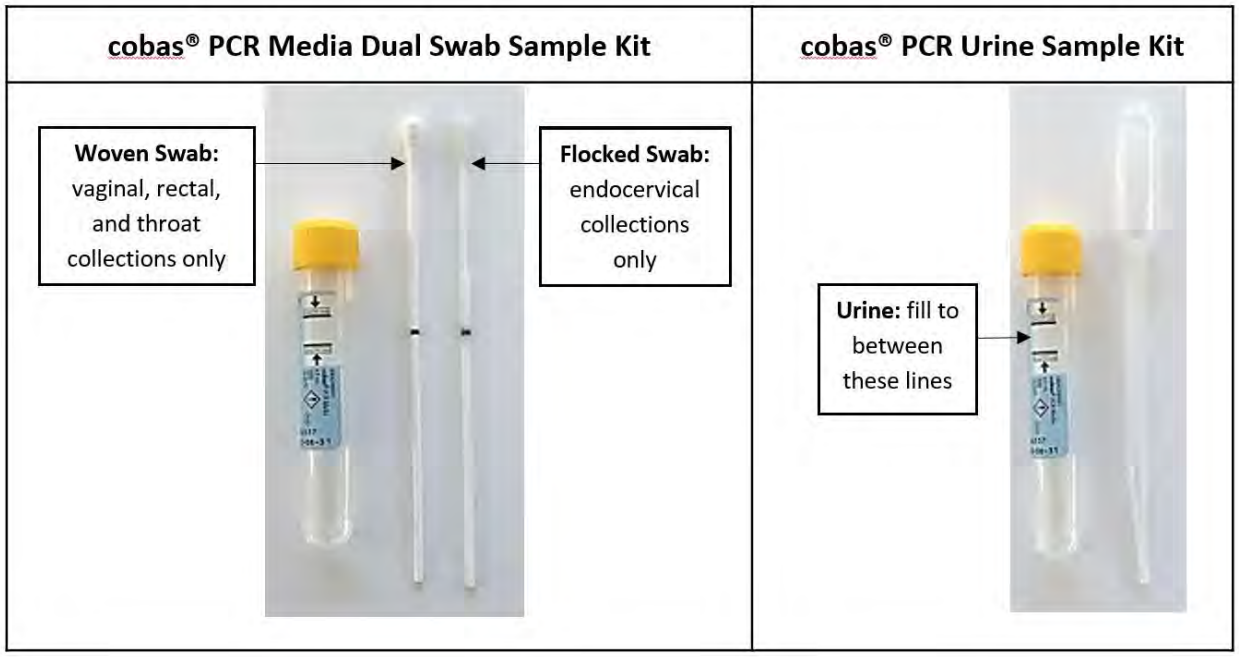
- Collection instructions using the Roche cobas® kits can be found here: Roche Educational Resources

Table 1: Acceptable Specimen Collection Sites and Associated Collection Kits for CT/NG NAAT

Collection Site	Collection Kit	Collection Kit - swab
Female endocervical	Roche cobas® PCR Media Dual Swab Sample Kit	Flocked swab
Clinician or patient-collected specimens in a clinical setting 1. Female vaginal 2. Rectal 3. Pharyngeal	Roche cobas® PCR Media Dual Swab Sample Kit	Woven swab
Male and female urine	Roche cobas® PCR Urine Sample Kit	

Note: Patient-collected specimen collection for women is not designed to replace cervical exams and endocervical specimens for the diagnosis of female urogenital infections. Patients may have cervicitis, urethritis, urinary tract infections, or vaginal infections due to other causes or concurrent infections with other agents. Women who have symptoms suggesting pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) should not use a self-collected swab to obtain patient-collected vaginal swab specimens as a replacement for a pelvic exam. The patient-collected swab specimen collection is limited to health care facilities where support or counseling is available to explain the procedures and precautions. PHO's laboratory does not accept at-home patient self-collection.

Figure 1: Acceptable Specimen Collection Kits for CT/NG NAAT



Limitations: The following specimens should be recollected at the time of specimen collection or they will be rejected if received in the laboratory.

- Swab specimens grossly contaminated with blood or feces.
- Swab specimen tubes with no swabs or with two swabs.
- Urine specimens with volumes outside the two black lines on the tube label.

Medico-legal investigations: CT and NG culture is the preferred and recommended method for medico-legal investigations; however, NAAT specimens will also be accepted. A positive NAAT result requires confirmation by another NAAT using a different set of primers as per the current Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections. Specimens received on patients <14 years of age have not been validated by the manufacturer; however, they will be tested by PHO with a disclaimer added.

Confirmatory testing:

- NG confirmatory testing will be performed on NG-positive specimens for extragenital sites, children <12 years of age, cases of sexual abuse/sexual assault, and medico-legal investigations. Confirmatory testing for NG is performed using the Roche cobas® omni Utility Channel with the PivNG Assay V2 (IDT). This assay is not currently approved by Health Canada but has been validated for use at PHO's laboratory.
- CT confirmatory testing will be performed on CT positive specimens for children <12 years of age, cases of sexual abuse/sexual assault, and medico-legal investigations. CT confirmatory testing is performed using the Cepheid Xpert® CT/NG assay.

Test of cure (TOC): General guidelines for NG and CT are described below. Refer to the PHAC Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections for detailed information.

- **NG:** TOC is recommended for all positive sites and culture is the preferred method. Obtain cultures 3 to 7 days after treatment is complete. If culture is not available and NAAT is used as a TOC, it should be performed 2 to 3 weeks after completion of treatment. Repeat screening is recommended 6 months post-treatment for all individuals with NG infection.

- **CT:** TOC by NAAT is recommended 3 to 4 weeks after completion of treatment when compliance to treatment is suboptimal, an alternative treatment regimen is used, for those with persisting signs or symptoms post-treatment, or the individual is prepubertal or pregnant. For LGV, TOC is recommended 3 weeks after completion of treatment. Follow LGV-infected individuals until TOC for CT is negative and symptoms have resolved. In rare circumstances, CT DNA may persist for longer than 4 weeks and therefore must be considered when interpreting positive TOC results. Repeat screening is recommended 3 months post-treatment for all individuals with CT infection.

Test Information Sheets for NAAT and culture testing are available by accessing PHO's Laboratory Test Information Index.

Reporting: Positive CT or NG laboratory test results are reported to the Medical Officer of Health at the local public health unit.

Assay Sensitivity and Specificity

Table 2 below provides sensitivity and specificity information for the Roche cobas® assay for the detection of CT and NG at urogenital and extragenital sites.

Clinic-based patient-collected swabbing at vaginal, rectal and pharyngeal sites has the same performance characteristics as clinician-collected swabbing when performed correctly. For collection instructions on patient-collected swabbing, refer to the following link: Roche Educational Resources

Table 2: Manufacturer reported test performance of the Roche cobas® assay for CT and NG (% (95% CI))[1,2]

	CT Sensitivity	CT Specificity	NG Sensitivity	NG Specificity
Female: Urine	100% (98.7%-100%)	99.1% (98.6%-99.5%)	100% (85.2%-100%)	99.8% (99.6%-100%)
Female: Clinician-collected vaginal swab	100% (95.8%-100%)	98.6% (97.7%-99.2%)	100% (83.2%-100%)	99.9% (99.5%-100%)
Female: Self-collected vaginal swab	100% (96.0%-100%)	98.7% (97.8%-99.3%)	100% (81.5%-100%)	99.7% (99.2%-99.9%)
Female: Endocervical swab	100% (96.8%-100%)	99.2% (98.6%-99.5%)	95.7% (78.1%-99.9%)	99.9% (99.7%-100%)
Male: Urine	100% (96.8%-100%)	99.6% (98.8%-99.9%)	96.8% (83.3%-99.9%)	100% (99.5%-100%)
Pharyngeal	100% (87.9%-100%)	99.8% (99.6%-99.9%)	100% (96.2%-100%)	98.9% (98.4%-99.2%)
Rectal	95.1% (90.2%-97.6%)	99.2% (98.8%-99.5%)	99.0% (94.6%-99.8%)	99.3% (98.9%-99.6%)

References

[1] cobas® CT/NG, Qualitative nucleic acid test for use on the cobas® 6800/8800 Systems, Package Insert 08978905001-01EN. Doc Rev 1.0. 05/2019

[2] cobas® CT/NG, Qualitative nucleic acid test for use on the cobas® 6800/8800 Systems, Package Insert 07997981001-03EN. Doc Rev 3.0. 11/2021

For further information

- Contact PHO's Laboratory Customer Service Centre at 416-235-6556 or 1-877-604-4567 (toll-free), or by email at customerservicecentre@oahpp.ca
- For specimen collection information and previous Labstracts, refer to publichealthontario.ca/test directory
- The current version of PHO's Laboratory General Test Requisition and other forms are available at publichealthontario.ca/Requisitions
- To subscribe to future Labstracts, register on our website
- To register for Autofax and receive laboratory reports by fax directly from our laboratory information system as soon as they are released, contact the PHO's Laboratory Customer Service Centre.

Ontario

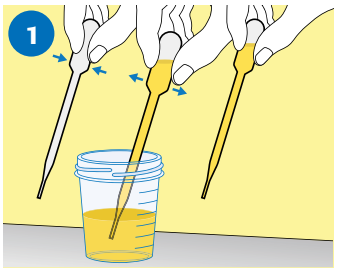
Public Health Ontario is an agency of the Government of Ontario.

**Review specimen options - specimen kits are lab dependent
These instructions are for cobas media kits that are currently being used by Public Health Lab

cobas® STI Testing Sample Collection with the cobas® PCR Media Kits

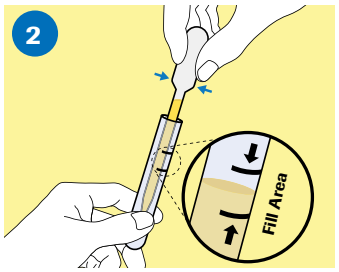
URINE SAMPLE COLLECTION

Prior to sampling, the patient should not have urinated for at least one hour. Given that collection of larger volumes of urine may reduce test sensitivity, please direct patient to provide first-catch urine (approximately 10 to 50 mL of the initial urine stream) into a urine collection cup (not provided).

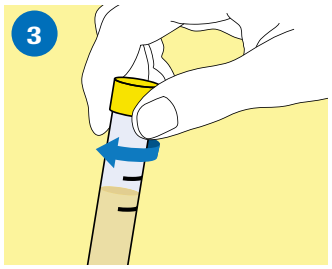


PIPETTE: Immediately transfer the urine into the **cobas**® PCR Media Tube using the provided disposable pipette.

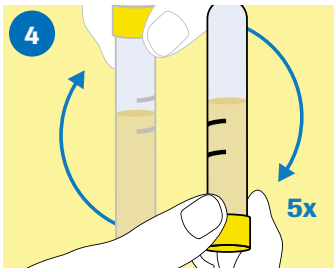
NOTE: *If the urine specimen cannot be transferred immediately, it can be stored at 2ºC to 30ºC for up to 24 hours.*



TRANSFER: The correct volume of urine has been added when the fluid level is between the two black lines on the tube label.



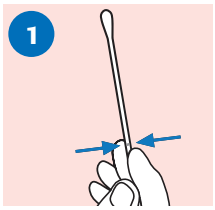
CAP: Tightly re-cap the **cobas**® PCR Media Tube.

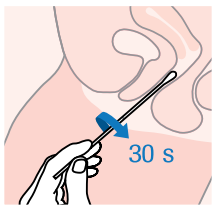


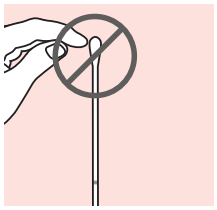
MIX: Invert the tube 5 times to mix. The specimen is now ready for transport.

VAGINAL SWAB SAMPLE COLLECTION

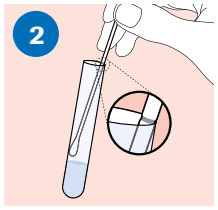
NOTE: ***Do not*** pre-wet the swab in **cobas**® PCR Media before collection.



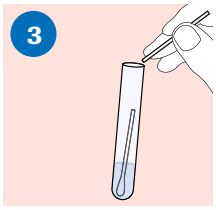




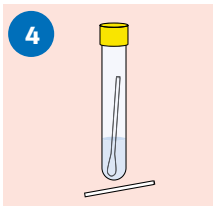
COLLECT: To collect the specimen, hold the woven swab with the scoreline above your hand and insert the swab about 5 cm (2 inches) into the vaginal opening. Gently turn the swab for about 30 seconds while rubbing the swab against the walls of the vagina. Withdraw the swab carefully. Do not let the swab touch any surface before placing it into the collection tube.



ALIGN: Remove the cap from the **cobas**® PCR Media Tube and lower the swab specimen into the tube until the visible scoreline on the swab is aligned with the tube rim.



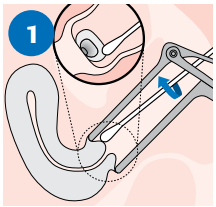
BREAK: Carefully leverage the swab against the tube rim to break the swab shaft at the scoreline.



CLOSE: Tightly re-cap the **cobas**® PCR Media Tube. The specimen is now ready for transport. Discard the top portion of the swab.

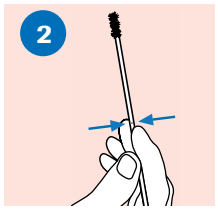
ENDOCERVICAL SWAB SAMPLE COLLECTION

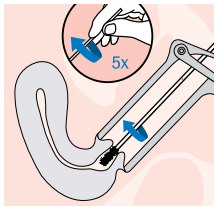
NOTE: ***Do not*** pre-wet the swab in **cobas**® PCR Media before collection.



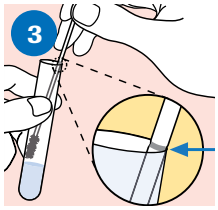
CLEAN: Using the woven swab, remove excess mucus from the cervical os and surrounding mucosa. Discard swab after cleaning.

NOTE: *Cleaning excess mucus from the cervical os is required to ensure an adequate sample is obtained for processing.*

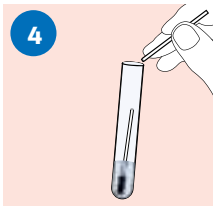




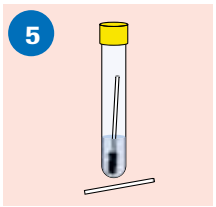
COLLECT: To collect the specimen, hold flocked swab with the scoreline above your hand and insert into the endocervical canal. Gently rotate the swab 5 times in one direction in the endocervical canal. Do not over-rotate. Carefully withdraw the swab, avoiding any contact with the vaginal mucosa.



ALIGN: Remove the cap from the **cobas**® PCR Media Tube and lower the swab specimen into the tube until the visible scoreline on the swab shaft is aligned with the tube rim. The bud of the swab should not be submerged into liquid prior to breaking the shaft.



BREAK: Carefully leverage the swab against the tube rim to break the swab shaft at the scoreline.



CLOSE: Tightly re-cap the **cobas**® PCR Media Tube. The specimen is now ready for transport. Discard the top portion of the swab.

Specimen	Collection and Transport Kit	Sample Stability	Testing Volume
Male & Female Urine	**cobas**® PCR Urine Sample Kit	12 months	850 µL
Endocervical	**cobas**® PCR Media Dual Swab Sample Kit	12 months	400 µL
Vaginal	**cobas**® PCR Media Uni Swab Sample Kit **cobas**® PCR Media Dual Swab Sample Kit	12 months	400 µL

URINE SAMPLE COLLECTION TIPS

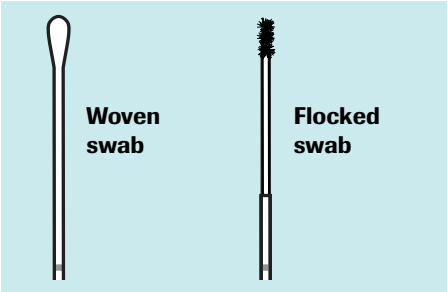
- Prior to sampling, the patient should not have urinated for at least one hour.
- This sample is a first-catch sample, not a mid-stream collection such as is used for urine culture.
- Not a lot of urine is needed; collect 10 - 50 mL of urine.

URINE SPECIMEN TRANSPORT AND STORAGE

- Ensure that the cap is tightened when closing the **cobas**® PCR Media Tube.
- Urine specimens must be transferred into the **cobas**® PCR Media Tube (stabilized) immediately. If specimens cannot be transferred immediately, they can be stored at 2ºC to 30ºC for up to 24 hours.
- Transport and store the **cobas**® PCR Media Tube containing the stabilized urine specimen at 2ºC to 30ºC. Stabilized urine specimens are stable at 2ºC to 30ºC for up to 12 months.

ENDOCERVICAL AND VAGINAL SWAB SPECIMEN COLLECTION TIPS

- Vaginal lubricants, speculum jellies, creams, and gels containing carbomer(s) may interfere with the test and should not be used during or prior to sample collection.
- If the collected specimen contains excess blood (specimen has a red or brown color), it should be discarded and not used for testing.
- Avoid contact of the **cobas**® PCR Media with the skin, eyes or mucous membranes. If contact does occur, immediately wash with large amounts of water.
- For **endocervical sample collection** with the **cobas**® PCR Media Dual Swab Kit, use the woven swab for cleaning and the flocked swab for sample collection.
- For **vaginal sample collection** with the **cobas**® PCR Media Uni or Dual Swab Kits, use only the woven swab for sample collection. Discard the flocked swab.



SWAB SPECIMEN TRANSPORT AND STORAGE

- Ensure that the cap is tightened when closing the **cobas**® PCR Media Tube.
- Transport and store the **cobas**® PCR Media Tube containing the collection swab at 2°C to 30°C.
- The specimen should only contain one swab and may be rejected if the tube contains no swab or two swabs.

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201 Armand-Frappier Blvd
Laval, Québec H7V 4A2

rochecanada.com

CHLAMYDIA & GONORRHEA CULTURE

There are different specimen collection kits for culture testing for chlamydia and gonorrhea. Fluids and tissue samples should be collected in a sterile container. Figure 1 and Figure 2 are sample specimen collection kits for genital and non-genital swabs used by Public Health Ontario Laboratories (PHOL). **This is subject to change, while other laboratories may use alternative kits.** PHOL provide free supplies for specimen collection to those submitting samples to PHOL for testing. Call Public Health Lab Service Desk (1-877-604-4567) for more information.

Figure 1. Chlamydia genital and non-genital swabs for culture.

Figure 2. Gonorrhoeae genital and non-genital swabs for culture.

Labstract – November 2020

Syphilis *(Treponema pallidum)* Serologic Testing Update - Changes to Rapid Plasma Reagin (RPR) Confirmatory Test and Algorithm

Audience

Health Care Providers who order syphilis serology testing.

Overview

Effective November 2020:

- Public Health Ontario's (PHO) laboratory is changing the syphilis confirmatory serology testing methodology on serum from manual Rapid Plasma Reagin (RPR) testing to an automated RPR test system utilizing the Gold Standard AIX1000 RPR analyzer.
- PHO's laboratory follows the reverse syphilis serologic testing algorithm. Currently a treponemal test, Chemiluminescent Micro-particle Immunoassay (CMIA) is used as the screening test followed by both a non-treponemal test (RPR) and a treponemal test, Treponema pallidum particulate agglutination (TPPA) for confirmation. PHO's laboratory is changing its syphilis confirmatory algorithm by performing RPR first followed by TPPA only for those samples that test RPR non-reactive.

Background Information

Syphilis is a disease caused by infection with the bacterium *Treponema pallidum* (TP). Route of transmission is primarily through sexual contact, but it can also be transmitted from mother to fetus, or rarely, through blood and blood product and/or organ transplant. Syphilis typically follows a progression of stages including primary, secondary, latent and rarely tertiary stages that can last for weeks, months or even years. Serologic testing is the primary method for routine diagnosis and monitoring of treatment.

Change to Syphilis RPR Confirmatory Testing

As the number of syphilis cases continues to rise, the need to fully automate all steps in the **syphilis testing** algorithm increases, and RPR testing has become an excellent candidate for **lab automation**.

The Gold Standard Diagnostics AIX1000 Rapid Plasma Reagin (RPR) Automated Assay is a non-treponemal flocculation test for the qualitative and semi-quantitative determination of reagin antibodies in human serum or plasma to aid in the diagnosis of syphilis.

Screening Test (CMIA)	Confirmatory Test (RPR)	Confirmatory Test (TPPA)	Possible Interpretations/ Recommendations
Reactive	Invalid	Not Tested	Inconclusive syphilis serology results • Advise Follow-up sample
Age < 12 Months Reactive	Reactive	Reactive	• Maternal antibody (can be present in infant for up to 12 months) • Congenital infection • If congenital or early syphilis is suspected, consider ordering repeat serology at the recommended intervals according to the PHAC Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections, Section 5-10, Table 8(b) (see references)
Age < 12 Months Reactive	Non- reactive	Reactive	• Maternal antibody (can be present in infant for up to 12 months) • Does not rule out congenital infection • If congenital or early syphilis is suspected, consider ordering repeat serology at the recommended intervals according to the PHAC Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections, Section 5-10, Table 8(b) (see references)

Specimen collection requirements

Human serum is acceptable for syphilis serology testing. Whole blood should be allowed to clot. Serum separator tubes (SST) are acceptable. Liquid anticoagulants may have a dilution effect resulting in lower concentrations for individual patient specimens. Heat inactivated, haemolysed, icteric, lipemic or microbially contaminated sera are not recommended for testing.

Note: This document does not apply to testing for syphilis in primary lesions and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF). Syphilis testing information for primary lesions and CSF is available at:
http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/ServicesAndTools/LaboratoryServices/Pages/Syphilis_Chancre_Direct_Fluoresce_nce.aspx;
http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/ServicesAndTools/LaboratoryServices/Pages/Syphilis_CSF.aspx

Testing Turnaround time (TAT)

TAT may be up to 6 days.

References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Sexually transmitted disease surveillance 2014 http://www.cdc.gov/std/stats14/ (Accessed on February 06, 2017)

2. Hicks CB, Clement M. Syphilis: Screening and diagnostic testing. In: UpToDate, Hynes NA, Mitty J (Ed), UpToDate, Waltham, MA. (Accessed on April 03, 2017)

3. Levett PN, Fonseca K, Tsang RSW, et al. Canadian Public Health Laboratory Network laboratory (CPHLN) guidelines for the use of serological tests (excluding point-of-care tests) for the diagnosis of syphilis in Canada. Can J Infect Dis Mid Microbiol 2015;26(Suppl A):6A-12A.

4. PHAC Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections; Section 5-10: Management and Treatment of Specific Infections, Table 8(b) at https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/infectious-diseases/sexual- health-sexually-transmitted-infections/canadian-guidelines/sexually-transmitted-infections/canadian- guidelines-sexually-transmitted-infections-27.html

For further information

- Contact the PHOL Customer Service Centre at 416-235-6556 or 1-877-604-4567 (toll-free), or by email at CustomerServiceCentre@oahpp.ca
- For PHOL specimen collection information and previous Labstracts, refer to publichealthontario.ca/Labs
- The current version of the PHOL General Test Requisition and other forms are available at publichealthontario.ca/Requisitions
- To subscribe to future Labstracts, email labstracts@oahpp.ca
- To register for Autofax and receive laboratory reports by fax directly from our laboratory information system as soon as they are released, contact the PHOL Customer Service Centre.

Section D:
Patient Resources

This section consists of fact sheets to provide to patients for general information about chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis.

Chlamydia

What is chlamydia?

Chlamydia is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by bacteria (germs), called *chlamydia trachomatis*. It is one of the most common bacterial STIs.

How does chlamydia spread?

Chlamydia spreads through unprotected oral, vaginal, and/or anal sex with an infected partner. Mothers may also pass it to their newborn baby during a vaginal birth.

What are the symptoms of chlamydia?

- Change in discharge from the penis, vagina, or rectum
- Itching, pain, or burning sensation when peeing
- Itching or pain around the tip of the penis
- Pain during intercourse
- Lower abdominal pain
- Abnormal vaginal bleeding, such as bleeding during or after sex
- Pain or swelling of the testes
- Redness or swelling of the conjunctiva (white part of the eye) if exposed.

Most people do not show any symptoms, but can still spread the germs to others without knowing it. Testing may then be the only the way to know that you have chlamydia. Symptoms usually appear in about 2 weeks, but can take up to six weeks after the germs enter your body.

What are complications of chlamydia?

If left untreated, the germs can spread and cause an infection of the uterus, fallopian tubes, and ovaries, known as pelvic inflammatory disease (PID). Even without symptoms, it can lead to serious complications, such as:

- Chronic pelvic pain
- Ectopic pregnancy (fertilized egg attaches outside of the uterus)
- Infertility (unable to get pregnant)
- During pregnancy, early labour, and infection of the eyes and lungs of the newborn.

Infections, including chlamydia, of the genital area may increase the risk of getting human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

How do I get tested for chlamydia?

A urine sample and/or swabs of the cervix, urethra, throat, or rectum may be collected by a health care provider to test for chlamydia.

How is chlamydia treated?

- If you have these symptoms, see a health care provider as soon as possible.
- Tell your health care provider about any type of unprotected sex (oral, vaginal, or rectal).
- Treatment includes antibiotics (medications that kill bacteria) and it is important to take the medication as prescribed by your health care provider.
- Do not have sex for 7 days after start of the treatment.
- Your partners will need to receive treatment and wait seven days before having sex again.
- The Health Unit can help you notify your partners, while keeping your identity confidential.
- You can also be re-infected with chlamydia after treatment, so it is recommended that you repeat testing 6 months after treatment.

How do I prevent the spread of chlamydia?

Ways to prevent infection include:

- Practicing safer sex, such as:
  - Abstinence (not taking part in any types of sex),
  - Mutual monogamy (both partners agree to only have sex with each other and have been tested for sexually transmitted and bloodborne infections (STBBIs)), and
  - Using latex and polyurethane male and female condoms and dental dams. **Condoms are available for free at the Health Unit.**
  - Not sharing sex toys or thoroughly washing them with disinfectants between use
- Getting tested for STBBIs, if you had unprotected sex or are not sure if you or your partners have a STBBI.

For more information, contact the Health Unit or speak to your health care provider.

- SexualHealthOntario (also has live online chat and Sexual Health Infoline): www.sexualhealthontario.ca; 1-800-668-2437
- The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada – Sex & U: https://www.sexandu.ca/
- Government of Canada: https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/chlamydia.html

References:

Government of Canada. (2019). Section 5-2: Canadian guidelines on sexually transmitted infections - Management and treatment of specific infections: Chlamydial infections. Retrieved from https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/infectious-diseases/sexual-health-sexually-transmitted-infections/canadian-guidelines/sexually-transmitted-infections/canadian-guidelines-sexually-transmitted-infections-30.html.

Heymann, D.L. (Ed.). (2015). *Control of communicable diseases manual* (20th ed.). Washington, DC: American Public Health Association.

Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. (2019). *Infectious Diseases Protocol: Appendix A – Chlamydia trachomatis infections*. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario.

Gonorrhea

What is gonorrhea?

Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by bacteria (germs), called *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*. It is one of the most common bacterial STIs.

How does gonorrhea spread?

Gonorrhea spreads through unprotected oral, vaginal, and/or anal sex with an infected partner. Mothers may also pass it to their newborn baby during a vaginal birth.

What are the symptoms of gonorrhea?

- Thick discharge from the penis, vagina, or rectum
- Itching, pain, or burning sensation when peeing
- Itching or pain around the tip of the penis or rectum
- Pain during intercourse
- Lower abdominal pain
- Abnormal vaginal bleeding, such as bleeding during or after sex
- Pain or swelling of the testes
- Sore throat
- Redness or swelling of the conjunctiva (white part of the eye) if exposed.

Many people do not show any symptoms, but can still spread the germs to others without knowing it. Testing may then be the only the way to know that you have gonorrhea. Symptoms usually appear 1 to 14 days after the germs enter your body.

What are complications of gonorrhea?

If left untreated, the germs can spread and cause an infection of the blood (septicemia). It can also cause an infection of the uterus, fallopian tubes, and ovaries, known as pelvic inflammatory disease (PID). Even without symptoms, this can lead to serious complications, such as:

- Chronic pelvic pain
- Ectopic pregnancy (fertilized egg attaches outside of the uterus)
- Infertility (unable to get pregnant)
- During pregnancy, early labour, and infection of the eyes and lungs of the newborn.
- Arthritis (inflammation of the joints)
- Skin lesions
- Meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord)
- Endocarditis (inflammation of the lining of the heart)

Infections, including gonorrhea, of the genital area may increase the risk of getting human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

How do I get tested for gonorrhea?

A urine sample and/or swabs of the cervix, urethra, throat, or rectum may be collected by a health care provider to test for gonorrhea.

How is gonorrhea treated?

- If you have these symptoms, see a health care provider as soon as possible.
- Tell your health care provider about any type of unprotected sex (oral, vaginal, or rectal) and if you or your partners have been travelling.
- Treatment includes antibiotics (medications that kill bacteria). In Canada, gonorrhea may be resistant to some antibiotics. It is important to take the medication as prescribed by your health care provider. You may also need to have a follow up test to make sure that the medications have worked. See your health care provider if the symptoms do not go away after treatment.
- Your partners will also need to receive treatment.
- Do not have any type of sex for 3 days after you and your partners have completed treatment. Do not have sex if you or your partners still have any symptoms.
- The Health Unit can help you notify your partners, while keeping your identity confidential.
- You can also be re-infected with gonorrhea after treatment, so it is recommended that you repeat testing 6 months after treatment.

How do I prevent the spread of gonorrhea?

Ways to prevent infection include:

- Practicing safer sex, such as:
  - Abstinence (not taking part in any types of sex),
  - Mutual monogamy (both partners agree to only have sex with each other and have been tested for sexually transmitted and bloodborne infections (STBBIs)), and
  - Using latex and polyurethane male and female condoms and dental dams. **Condoms are available for free at the Health Unit.**
  - Not sharing sex toys or thoroughly washing them with disinfectants between use
- Getting tested for STBBIs, if you had unprotected sex and/or are not sure if you or your partners have a STBBI.

For more information, contact the Health Unit or speak to your health care provider.

- SexualHealthOntario (also has live online chat and Sexual Health Infoline): www.sexualhealthontario.ca; 1-800-668-2437
- The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada – Sex & U: https://www.sexandu.ca/

References:

Government of Canada. (2019). Section 5-6: Canadian guidelines on sexually transmitted infections - Management and treatment of specific infections: Gonococcal Infections. Retrieved from https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/infectious-diseases/sexual-health-sexually-transmitted-infections/canadian-guidelines.html.

Heymann, D.L. (Ed.). (2015). *Control of communicable diseases manual* (20th ed.). Washington, DC: American Public Health Association.

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). (2018). *Ontario Gonorrhea Testing and Treatment Guide, 2nd Edition*. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario.

Syphilis

What is syphilis?

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by bacteria (germs), called Treponema pallidum.

How does syphilis spread?

Syphilis mostly spreads through contact with a contagious sore or rash during unprotected oral, vaginal, and/or anal sex. A person can spread the infection without knowing it.

Mothers may also pass it to their newborn baby during pregnancy. It rarely spreads through sharing of needles and injection equipment or blood transfusions.

What are the symptoms of syphilis?

Syphilis goes through four stages, if left untreated. Each stage may have different symptoms.

Stage	Symptoms
Primary	Usually appears 3 to 90 days after the germs enter your body • Painless sore(s) around exposed area (in and around the mouth, genitals and/or rectum) • Swelling of lymph nodes
Secondary	Usually appears 2 to 12 weeks after the germs enter your body • Rash on the palms of the hands, soles of the feet, or other parts of the body • Flu-like symptoms (e.g., fever, sore throat, feeling unwell, headaches) • Sores in the mouth or genital areas • Swelling of lymph nodes • Wart-like bumps around the genital area • Patches of hair loss
Latent	• There are no symptoms in this stage. • Infection can still spread to others if you are infected for less than 1 year.
Tertiary	Can take 1 to 46 years before the effects of the infection are seen. • If left untreated, the infection can cause serious illness, affecting your heart, skin, brain, bones, and other organs. • Symptoms depend on which organs the infection has spread.

What are other complications of syphilis?

Neurosyphilis is infection that has spread to the brain and/or spinal cord. This can occur during the secondary, latent, and tertiary stages of syphilis. Symptoms include:

- Headaches
- Dizziness
- Personality changes
- Dementia
- Difficulty with muscle movement.

How do I get tested for syphilis?

A health care provider will do blood tests to test for syphilis. If needed, the health care provider may also arrange to test the fluid from the spine in the lower back to see if the infection has spread to your brain and spinal cord.

How is syphilis treated?

If you have symptoms, see a health care provider as soon as possible.

- Tell your health care provider about any type of unprotected sex (oral, vaginal, or anal).
- Treatment includes antibiotics (medications that kill bacteria). Treatment may require a few visits to your health care provider. It is important to go every time and complete your treatment. Even if your symptoms improve, you will still need to continue treatment.
- You will need to have follow up tests to make sure that the medications have worked. Blood results may always be positive even after you have been treated and cured. It is important to tell your health care providers if you were treated for syphilis in the past.
- It is important that you inform all of your sexual partners. They will also need to be tested and treated.
- Do not have sex until you and your partners are treated and the blood tests show that the medications have worked.
- The Health Unit can notify your partners, while keeping your identity confidential.

How do I prevent the spread of syphilis?

You can be re-infected with syphilis after treatment. Ways to prevent infection include:

- Practicing safer sex, such as:
  - Abstinence (not taking part in any types of sex),
  - Mutual monogamy (both partners agree to only have sex with each other and have been tested for sexually transmitted and bloodborne infections (STBBIs)), and
  - Use latex and polyurethane male and female condoms and dental dams. **Condoms are available for free at the Health Unit.**
  - Not sharing sex toys or thoroughly washing them with disinfectants between use

- Getting tested for STBBIs, if you had unprotected sex and/or are not sure if you or your partners have a STBBI. Infections, including syphilis, of the genital area may increase the risk of getting human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

For more information
contact the Health Unit or speak to your health care provider.

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- The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada – Sex & U: https://www.sexandu.ca/

References:

Government of Canada. (2019). Section 5-10: Canadian guidelines on sexually transmitted infections - Management and treatment of specific infections: Syphilis. Retrieved from https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/infectious-diseases/sexual-health-sexually-transmitted-infections/canadian-guidelines.html.

Heymann, D.L. (Ed.). (2015). *Control of communicable diseases manual* (20th ed.). Washington, DC: American Public Health Association.

Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. (2019). *Infectious Diseases Protocol: Appendix A - Syphilis*. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario.

DISEASES OF PUBLIC HEALTH SIGNIFICANCE

REPORT DISEASES LISTED BELOW TO:
Phone: 519-258-2146 or Fax: 226-783-2132
(8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday)
After hours, weekends, and holidays phone: 519-973-4510

WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY HEALTH unit
Bureau de santé de Windsor-comté d'Essex

Timely reporting of communicable diseases is essential for their control. If you suspect or have confirmation of the following specified "Diseases of Public Health Significance" or their "etiologic agents," (as per Ontario Reg 135/18 and amendments under the Health Protection and Promotion Act), please report them to the local Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT IMMEDIATELY

- Anthrax
- Botulism
- Brucellosis
- Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, all types
- Diphtheria
- Group A Streptococcal Disease, invasive (iGAS)
- Haemophilus influenzae disease, all types, invasive
- Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome
- Hemorrhagic fevers, including:
  1. Ebola virus disease
  2. Marburg virus disease
  3. Lassa Fever
  4. Other viral causes
- Hepatitis A
- Measles
- Meningococcal disease, invasive
- Diseases caused by a novel coronavirus, including
  1. Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)
  2. Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)
  3. Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
- Plague
- Poliomyelitis, acute
- Q Fever
- Rabies
- Smallpox and other Orthopoxviruses including Mpox (Monkeypox)

REPORT BY THE NEXT WORKING DAY

- Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)
- Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP)
- Amebiasis
- Anaplasmosis
- Babesiosis
- Blastomycosis
- Campylobacter enteritis
- Candida auris
- Carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPE), infection or colonization
- Chancroid
- Chickenpox (Varicella)
- Chlamydia trachomatis infections
- Cholera
- Clostridium difficile infection (CDI) outbreaks in public hospitals
- Cryptosporidiosis
- Cyclosporiasis
- Echinococcus Multiocularis infection
- Encephalitis, including:
  1. Post-infectious
  2. Vaccine-related
  3. Subacute sclerosing panencephalitis
  4. Unspecified
  5. Primary, viral
- Food poisoning, all causes
- Gastroenteritis outbreaks in institutions and public hospitals
- Giardiasis, except asymptomatic cases
- Gonorrhoea
- Group B Streptococcal disease, neonatal
- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis C
- Influenza
- Legionellosis
- Leprosy
- Listeriosis
- Lyme Disease
- Meningitis, acute:
  1. Bacterial
  2. Viral
  3. Other
- Mumps
- Ophthalmia neonatorum
- Paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP)
- Paratyphoid Fever
- Pertussis (Whooping Cough)
- Pneumococcal disease, invasive
- Powassan
- Psittacosis/Ornithosis
- Respiratory infection outbreaks in institutions and public hospitals
- Rubella
- Rubella, congenital syndrome
- Salmonellosis
- Shigellosis
- Syphilis
- Tetanus
- Trichinosis
- Tuberculosis
- Tularemia
- Typhoid Fever
- Verotoxin-producing E. coli, including: Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)
- West Nile Virus Illness
- Yersiniosis