

New York State Bacteriology Proficiency Testing Program Instruction Sheet – Gonorrhoea and Chlamydia

SEPTEMBER 8, 2009

This category is for laboratories that identify *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* and/or *Chlamydia trachomatis* from clinical specimens. Three (3) complete proficiency tests are required annually in this category. A minimum score of 80% is required to pass each test event. Failure to achieve a score of 80% on two of three consecutive testing events is considered unsuccessful performance.

Upon receipt and prior to testing, store the sample in its original sealed pouch at 2 – 8°C.

Protect yourself by proper handling. If there is any problem with the specimens, you **MUST** inform our office **within 5 business days** of the shipment date by calling (518) 474-4177.

1. Sample content.

Please note that there are two sample formats:

- **Direct Detection of *N. gonorrhoeae* and/or *C. trachomatis***

If your laboratory is testing for *N. gonorrhoeae* and/or *Chlamydia trachomatis* by any type of direct detection method (e.g. nucleic acid probe, nucleic acid amplification techniques, EIA or other antigen detection method), you should receive five swabs and the appropriate instructions for direct detection methods.

- **Culture for *N. gonorrhoeae***

If your laboratory is performing culture for identification of *N. gonorrhoeae*, you should receive five Culti-Loops and the appropriate instruction sheet for culture of *N. gonorrhoeae*.

Laboratories which test for *Chlamydia trachomatis* using direct detection and also perform culture for *N. gonorrhoeae* will receive both specimen types, for a total of 10 samples.

If you have any questions regarding which specimen format your laboratory should have received, please contact our office.

IMPORTANT: Survey samples, their progeny, unmodified derivatives or modifications thereof may not be transferred or incorporated into a product intended for Sale. Survey samples, their progeny, unmodified derivatives or modifications thereof, reagents, and disposable equipment used in proficiency testing, when disposed of, should be autoclaved or incinerated and disposed of as hazardous waste.

2. Reporting of results.

Report the presence or absence of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* and *Chlamydia trachomatis*. Also indicate the manufacturer and test system used to identify each organism.

3. Submission of results.

The deadline for submission of results is **SEPTEMBER 21, 2009**. Results must be submitted electronically unless prior approval has been obtained from the Clinical Laboratory Evaluation Program.

- **Electronic reporting: Do not submit paper results.** Specific questions regarding electronic reporting should be addressed to the Clinical Laboratory Evaluation Program at **(518) 485-5378** or by emailing **clepeptrs@health.state.ny.us**

If you have any questions regarding the Bacteriology Proficiency Testing Program, please contact Mrs. Geetha Nattanmai at **(518) 474-4177**.

Enclosures