

Date: August 10, 2010
From: Elisabeth Liebow, Coordinator, Infertility Prevention Program
Center for STI Prevention
To: STD Clinic Managers, STD Coordinators, FP Supervisors and Sticker Stewards
Subject: Four-month Gonorrhea Prevalence Survey for MD IPP Sites [9/2010 – 12/2010]

Dear STD and FP Colleagues,

In an effort to assess the burden of gonorrhea among women under 26 being screened through STD clinics, FP clinics and other IPP submitter sites, we will conduct a short-term GC prevalence survey. This is only a temporary change to the Chlamydia Testing Allocation System, *beginning on Monday, **September 13th, 2010** and ending on Friday, December 31st, 2010.* We will use the GC prevalence data to target future testing using combination CT/GC Nucleic Acid Amplification Testing (NAAT) in at least some of the jurisdictions with the highest rates of gonorrhea, resources permitting.

I. Laboratory Submission Form Changes effective Monday, September 13th, 2010 thru December 31st, 2010 ONLY. (See attached one page Lab Handout – Please print and post at your site)

CHANGE test request on lab form.

Write the specimen code (UR, CX or URE) in the box for **Chlamydia trachomatis/GC NAAT** on the lab form. (See attached one page Lab Handout).

CHANGE selection in MyLIMS.

Select “Chlamydia and Gonorrhea nucleic acid amplification.”

II. GC Prevalence Survey Teleconferences to be Held by DHMH Laboratory

In order to clarify the process for submitting specimens, filling out the lab form, entering into MyLIMS, and answering any questions you have, the DHMH Chlamydia Testing Laboratory will hold 3 identical half-hour teleconferences in August to accommodate staff vacation and clinic schedules:

August 17 (Tuesday), 10:00 am – 10:30 am

August 19 (Thursday), 2:00 pm – 2:30 pm

August 31, (Tuesday) 2:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Dial in from your phone:

Meeting ID: 8921

Dial in Number: 410-225-5300

Please visit the DHMH Laboratories Administration website <http://dhhm.state.md.us/labs/> for archived notes.

III. How You Can Help Assure Success of the GC Prevalence Survey

Communicate with your STD and FP clinicians and other approved IPP submitters to alert them to this opportunity to test women under 26 for CT *and* GC from Monday, September 13th, through Friday, December 31st, 2010.

Invite your STD and FP clinicians and clinicians at approved IPP submitter sites to participate in any of the 3 up-coming teleconferences.

Identify “missed opportunities” for combo testing of clients at risk for CT/GC infection, especially when a pelvic exam is not performed (i.e., females seeking emergency contraception or pregnancy testing).

IV. 2011 Testing Allocation System

Announcements about the 2011 Testing Allocation System will be made before the end of December.

Please don't hesitate to contact any of the following DHMH staff with any questions you may have before or after the teleconferences:

Elisabeth Liebow Coordinator Infertility Prevention Project	Center for STI Prevention	410-767-5160	eliebow@dnhm.state.md.us
César Peña Senior Epidemiologist	Center for STI Prevention	410-767-6687	cpena@dnhm.state.md.us
Ilise Marrazzo Nurse Consultant Family Planning Program	Center for MCH	410-767-5596	IMarrazzo@dnhm.state.md.us
Susan Taylor Lead Scientist	Chlamydia Testing Laboratory	410-767-6154	taylorS@dnhm.state.md.us
Heather Peters Supervisor	Virus Isolation/Chlamydia Laboratory	410-767-6153	petersh@dnhm.state.md.us
Dr. Maria Paz Carlos Chief	Division of Virology and Immunology, Laboratories Administration	410-767-6151	carlosm@dnhm.state.md.us