

Microbiology Services
Pathology Department
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East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust Microbiology Service Improvement (Ipswich Hub)

Chlamydia trachomatis and Neisseria Gonorrhoea change from current testing system to centralised Roche™ 6800 platform

Dear Colleagues, Clinicians and Healthcare Professionals,

Please note of a planned service improvement for Nucleic Acid Amplification Techniques (NAAT) for detection of *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoea* Nucleic acid in Genital and Eye samples. The planned change will be from the Hologic system that is currently providing the service from Cambridge PHE to ESNEFT laboratories to a centralised service provided from Ipswich Hospital Microbiology Laboratory on the Roche™ 6800 Molecular Analyser.

This methodology change will enable us to confirm positives by a separate probe, (which is required by the BASHH guidelines for some sample types), reduce the number of inhibitory samples, increase both specificity and sensitivity and improve turnaround times from the current provider. We will be changing the service from 18 May 2022. As a contingency, UKSHA Laboratory Cambridge will continue to provide a service for samples that are received in Hologic tubes for a month after this date. This will give the team sufficient time to implement, test and go live with the Roche™ 6800 system.

Users will not notice any change in reporting until the new system is implemented.

The use of the Roche™ 6800 platform will require a change in sample transport media/containers from the current Hologic swabs and urine transport containers to Roche™ swabs and urine transport containers. There will be a request to discard all of the old Hologic containers and a supply of the new Roche™ ones will be made available for the planned 18 May 2022 start date. Following the switch over, any samples received by the laboratory in Hologic transport media/containers will be tested at UKSHA Cambridge until 17 June 2022. Please be aware that samples sent in old containers beyond this point cannot be tested. We will work with any practices and clinics using the old sample containers, to ensure the swap over to the new transport media/containers from Roche™ is a smooth transition.

The guidelines for the new Roche™ sample collection systems are available and these will be issued to users nearer to, but ahead of, the go live date. If you would like these in an electronic format please contact the laboratory, providing an e-mail address. Roche™ will assist in the swap over of sample containers to ensure as many of the Hologic ones are removed but also to answer any questions on sample collection if required.

As this is a new methodology for Ipswich Microbiology laboratory the new service will be included in the future scope for accreditation by UKAS to ISO15189 standards.

Thank you for your co-operation and patience with this transition.

If you have any questions regarding this change please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

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