

FACT SHEET

Chlamydia-Gonorrhea amplification

2750 2770

The SLO Public Health Laboratory performs molecular amplification tests for detection of *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* using the APTIMA method (Transcription-mediated Amplification, Gen-Probe, Inc). The APTIMA method has been demonstrated to have superior performance characteristics in many peer-reviewed journal publications.

Specimens accepted for testing will include:

Female: Cervical, Vaginal, Rectal, and Pharyngeal APTIMA swab and Urine specimens

Male: Urine, Rectal, Pharyngeal and Urethral swabs specimens

APTIMA Collectors for urine, vaginal and cervical and other specimen type are provided.

Sensitivity

The Gen-Probe APTIMA method for detection of *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* has shown consistently superior performance compared to other molecular amplification assays in peer-reviewed reports because:

- the target is the 10⁴ copies of ribosomal RNA present in every cell versus less than a half dozen copies of the chromosome or the cryptic plasmid (sometimes absent)—a natural amplification target.
- the highly conserved nature of the target versus the tendency of other DNA target to mutate (example: the Scandinavian deletion mutant strain that was undetectable by Abbott and Roche assays).
- the target capture method of APTIMA that removes naturally occurring inhibitors.
- 98-100% sensitive in a number of studies.

Specificity

- The target ribosomal RNA sequence of *C. trachomatis* and *N. gonorrhoeae* is not shared with other organisms.
- No false-positive reactions with commensal *Neisseria* species in pharyngeal specimens has been demonstrated.
- 99-100% specific.

Precision

- reproducibility of the APTIMA assay has been shown to surpass other assays
- APTIMA is so sensitive and it may detect as few as a single *Chlamydia trachomatis* elementary body or EB, rendering repeat testing unnecessary.

Holding time

- 60 days at room temperature after collection for all swab specimens.
- 30 days for urine specimens.

FDA approval

- Approved by FDA for male and female urine specimens

CPT codes: 87491, 87591



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Insert Topic/Test Name Here

Last Updated: 10/26/15