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Male *Trichomonas vaginalis* Testing

On Tuesday, December 14th the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) will begin testing male urine for *Trichomonas vaginalis* using the Aptima *T. vaginalis* Assay. Testing will be available for patients 14 years and older. Testing also continues to be available for clinician collected endocervical, clinician collected vaginal swabs, and female urine.

Trichomoniasis is estimated to be the most prevalent nonviral STI worldwide, affecting approximately 3.7 million persons in the United States (*2*). The U.S. population-based *T. vaginalis* prevalence is 2.1% among females and 0.5% among males, with the highest rates among Black females (9.6%) and Black males (3.6%), compared with non-Hispanic White women (0.8%) and Hispanic women (1.4%) (*3*). Male partners of women with trichomoniasis are likely to have infection (*4*). The majority of persons who have trichomoniasis (70%–85%) either have minimal or no genital symptoms. Men with trichomoniasis sometimes have symptoms of urethritis, epididymitis, or prostatitis. Detection and treatment of Trichomoniasis in males can help to reduce transmission in the community. Untreated infections might last from months to years (*5*).

Molecular detection for *T. vaginalis* is the most sensitive testing method available. The Aptima *T. vaginalis* Assay uses nucleic acid probes and Transcription-Mediated Amplification (TMA) for qualitative detection of ribosomal RNA to aid in the diagnosis of Trichomoniasis. Reported sensitivity is 100% compared to wet-mount and culture (6). Urine testing is not currently FDA approved for this assay; therefore, it has been validated by the WSLH as a lab developed test and will be reported as such.

Test Information: Trichomonas vaginalis TMA

- **CPT code**: 87661
- **Test code**: SC00201
- **Price**: $48.99 each
- **Acceptable specimen types**: Endocervical swabs in an Aptima Unisex Swab Collection Kit, clinician collected vaginal swabs in an Aptima Multitest Swab Specimen Collection Kit, and urine in an Aptima Urine Specimen Collection Kit.
- **Specimen handling**: Prompt shipment is highly recommended. After collection, swab specimens placed in the appropriate Collection Kit should be stored and transported between 2°C and 30°C, and must be analyzed within 60 days of collection. Avoid temperature extremes. Urine in Aptima Collection Kits can be stored at 2-30 °C for up to 30 days.
- **Turn-around time**: 1-3 days, testing performed on weekdays
- **Possible Results**: *T. vaginalis* rRNA detected, No *T. vaginalis* rRNA detected, or Invalid

Reference

1. Sexually Transmitted Infections Treatment Guidelines, 2021. MMWR July 23, 2021. Vol. 70, No. 4
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3. Flagg EW, Meites E, Phillips C, Papp J, Torrone EA. Prevalence of Trichomonas vaginalis among civilian, noninstitutionalized male and female population aged 14 to 59 years: United States, 2013 to 2016. Sex Transm Dis 2019;46:e93–6.
4. Seña AC, Miller WC, Hobbs MM, et al. Trichomonas vaginalis infection in male sexual partners: implications for diagnosis, treatment, and prevention
5. Peterman TA, Tian LH, Metcalf CA, Malotte CK, Paul SM, Douglas JM Jr; RESPECT-2 Study Group. Persistent, undetected Trichomonas vaginalis infections? Clin Infect Dis 2009;48:259–60.
6. Hologic Aptima Trichomonas vaginalis Assay package insert for Panther System. 503684 Rev. 008. Pg 20. https://www.hologic.com/sites/default/files/2020-07/503684-IFU-PI_008_01.pdf