



DETECTION OF CHLAMYDIA INFECTIONS

NUCLEIC ACID AMPLIFICATION TESTS (NAATS) SHOULD BE THE TEST OF CHOICE FOR THE DETECTION OF CHLAMYDIA INFECTIONS

Chlamydia is a bacterial infection that can be successfully treated with antibiotics, but unfortunately many cases frequently go undiagnosed. In females, the disease is often asymptomatic and if left untreated, it can cause severe health consequences, including pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), ectopic pregnancy, and infertility. The CDC estimates that up to 40 percent of women with untreated chlamydia infections develop PID, and 20 percent of them may become infertile.

Approximately 2.8 million new cases of chlamydia are reported in the United States each year and in 2006, the national infection rate increased 5.5% (from 329 cases per 100,000 population in 2005). This higher national rate is likely due to improved chlamydia screening and reporting, continuing high burden of disease in the US as well as the increased use of **nucleic acid amplification tests** (NAATs), which are more sensitive than other types of screening assays. Recent CDC statistics for US Region IV (which includes the state of Florida), showed that in 2006 the chlamydia infection rate was 275 per 100,000 population and the positivity rate in women younger than 25 was 9.0%. This represented a slight increase in infections since 2005 even though only 79% of all chlamydia tests reported in this population were performed by NAATs.

CDC Recommendations:

According to the most recent STD treatment guidelines published by the CDC all sexually active women under age 26, as well as older women with risk factors (such as new or multiple sex partners) should be screened annually for chlamydia.

How to test: (Test code 75163)

NAATs are the most sensitive tests currently available for the detection of genital *Chlamydia trachomatis* infections. These molecular based assays are about 20% more sensitive than high-quality culture systems and up to 50% more sensitive than enzyme immunoassay tests. NAATs are FDA approved for endocervical, male urethral, and vaginal swab specimens and for male and female urine specimens. The Aptima Combo 2 assay offered at IRL accurately detects and differentiates *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* from a single specimen.

Specimen collection: For both male and female swab specimens, use the **Aptima Unisex Swab** specimen collection kit for endocervical and male urethral samples. Transport tubes have a silver foil cap. For collection and transport of male and female urine specimens the patient should not cleanse the area prior to providing the specimen, should not have urinated for at least one hour prior to sampling and should provide the first-catch urine into a urine collection cup. Use the **APTIMA Urine Specimen Collection Kit** to transfer appropriate amount of urine into the transport tube. Sterile urine is stable for 24-hours before being transferred to APTIMA kit. Additional information about Chlamydia trends and the latest CDC recommendations can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/std/stats/pdf/trends2006.pdf>.

HOW TO REQUEST A STAT PICK-UP

IRL provides STAT courier pickup when you need same day results. The following guidelines will ensure you have an IRL courier at your site within 2 hours of calling...the number is 1-800-522-0232, ext. 508. A live dispatcher will answer your call and ask if you are calling for a routine or STAT pickup. They will ask your account name and location, and the dispatcher will then give you a confirmation number to document your request.

Please have the specimen ready in your pickup location. A courier will arrive within 2 hours from the time of your phone call and will leave you a receipt, stating the date and time of pickup. You may expect your laboratory results within 2 hours of the pickup time. Remember.....IRL...it's about time!!!



DID YOU KNOW?

You are welcome to visit our laboratory and tour our operation. All you need to do is call our Marketing department at 954-777-0018 (X352) to schedule an appointment.

It's about time.



AUGUST—Back to school!

Attention General & Family Practitioners:

With “back to school” physicals underway, please remember to send your CBC orders and other blood work to IRL.

To call for a **specimen pickup**, dial 954-777-0018 (**extension 508**)

Who are you gonna call?...Important IRL Contact Numbers



At IRL, we are here to address any questions or needs you may have.

Below you will find a list of important phone extensions for your convenience:

Main toll free 1-800-522-0232

- Billing Extension 504
- Client Services/Lab Results Extension 501
- IT/Printer Problems Extension 502
- Access IRL Support Option 8 # 1
- Sales/Account Information Extension 315
- Specimen Pick-up Extension 508
- Supplies Extension 508

Patient Service Centers:

Broward County

- Northwest Medical Center954-978-4275
- University Medical Center954-726-6255
- Westside Regional954-474-4435

Dade County

- Aventura Hospital305-933-9225
- Cedars Medical Center305-324-0288
- Kendall Regional305-221-5718

Palm Beach County

- Columbia 45th Street561-840-4096
- JFK561-548-4475
- Palm Beach Gardens561-721-1418
- Palms West561-784-8446

St. Lucie County

- Lawnwood772-461-2889
- Port St. Lucie772-335-9430
- Port St. Lucie West772-621-3646



ANNOUNCEMENT!

IRL is happy to announce that our entire Test Directory can now be found on our website:

www.irlfl.com

by clicking “On-Line Test Directory” on the left navigation bar. You can easily search for any test by using one of four search functions...it’s that simple!

THE ROLE OF THE MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST AT IRL

Few people realize who is responsible for providing the ordering physician with laboratory results. It is the Medical Technologist who analyzes and performs the laboratory tests, both routine and complex, on blood, urine, sputum, cerebrospinal fluid and tissue. The field of medical technology is rapidly advancing and the use of automated equipment is now the norm.

Specimen analysis is performed by our licensed Medical Technologists using state-of-the-art equipment. At IRL, we have approximately 250 licensed Medical Technologists who monitor these instruments, performing calibration, quality control procedures and maintenance to ensure quality results. The Medical Technologist’s role at IRL is to provide accurate and timely results to aid the clinician in confirming a diagnosis and monitoring patient treatment.

“Helping the physician give good quality care” is why I enjoy my job, Margaret Pelly, IRL Medical Technologist expresses. “It gives me great satisfaction to know that at the end of the day, my work helps treat a sick patient”, Adamari Lopez, IRL Medical Technologist conveys.

“Knowing I’m helping patients without actually meeting them, gives me great satisfaction”, says Marie Francis, IRL Medical Technologist.

The next time you receive laboratory results, remember a Medical Technologist made them possible!

It's about time.



**KENDALL PATIENT SERVICE CENTER
NEW CONVENIENT
LOCATION!**

The Kendall PSC has relocated from the 2nd floor to the first floor atrium (Suite 107) at Kendall Regional Medical Center. Same staff and same great service.

Talk to us!

IRLB.IRLINFORMS@HCAHealthcare.com

For additional information on our laboratory, please visit our website at:

www.irlfl.com