

BioReference® Client Update

TO: All Clinical Staff and Ordering Providers

FROM: Laboratory Administration/ Infectious Disease Testing

DATE: May 15, 2026

SUBJECT: Clinical Protocol for Vaginitis and Vaginosis Testing

Purpose

We have observed a high volume of laboratory submissions for vaginitis and vaginosis testing on asymptomatic patients. This memo serves to clarify that, with one specific exception, these panels are intended strictly for symptomatic patients to ensure diagnostic accuracy and appropriate resource utilization.

Clinical Criteria for Testing

Diagnostic testing for Bacterial Vaginosis (BV) and Candida (CV) should only be initiated when a patient presents with one or more of the following symptoms:

- Abnormal vaginal discharge or odor
- Vaginal or vulvar itching or soreness
- Burning, redness, or localized irritation

Coding and Specimen Reference

Please use the following guide to ensure the correct test code is selected based on the patient's clinical presentation and the collection media used.

Symptomatic Patients Only

The following codes are diagnostic and **should NOT** be used for **screening asymptomatic** patients:

| Test Code | Description | Specimen Type |
|-----------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| M417-4 | BV, CV, and <i>Trichomonas</i> | Aptima Tube |
| M441-4 | BV, CV, and <i>Trichomonas</i> | ThinPrep or SurePath |
| M494-3 | BV and CV (No <i>Trichomonas</i>) | ThinPrep, TP Tube, or SurePath |
| M495-0 | BV and CV (No <i>Trichomonas</i>) | Aptima Tube |
| M403-4 | Candida (CV) Only | Aptima Tube |

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| Test Code | Description | Specimen Type |
|-----------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| M434-9 | Candida (CV) Only | ThinPrep or SurePath |
| TL79-8 | Bacterial Vaginosis (BV) Only | Aptima Tube |
| TR16-8 | Bacterial Vaginosis (BV) Only | ThinPrep or SurePath |
| TL76-4 | <i>Trichomonas</i> and Candida | Aptima, ThinPrep, or SurePath |

Symptomatic OR Asymptomatic Patients

The following codes are appropriate for testing purposes in the *presence or absence of symptoms*:

| Test Code | Description | Specimen Type |
|-----------|---|-------------------------------|
| A533-2 | <i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i> Only | Aptima, ThinPrep, or SurePath |
| 6116-8 | CT, GC, <i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i> | Aptima, ThinPrep, or SurePath |
| L048-8 | CT, GC, <i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i> , <i>Mycoplasma genitalium</i> | Aptima (2 tubes), ThinPrep |

Action Required

Review your current ordering sets to ensure compliance with these guidelines. Using symptomatic-only codes for routine screening leads to unnecessary costs and potential clinical mismanagement in certain cases, up to 50% increase in false positive results.

For questions regarding these protocols or specific specimen requirements, please contact Customer Service at 800-229-5227.

Sincerely,

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Chief Medical Officer (CMO)/Executive Vice President

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