UnityPoint Health

UnityPoint Health® – Central Illinois
Laboratory

7/20/2022

To: All UnityPoint Health Central Illinois Laboratory Clients and Providers

From: UnityPoint Health Central Illinois Laboratories

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Temporary Recommendation of Urine Collection for CT/NG Testing

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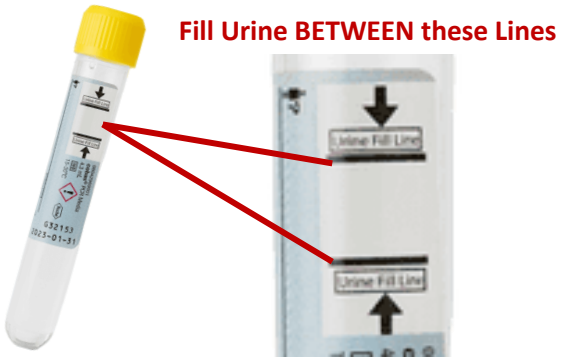
Roche instrumentation used for Chlamydia/Gonorrhea testing is having a high rate of invalid samples when utilizing the swab collection method. In this scenario, this means that the assay can tell there is some sort of interference, but we don't know for sure what it is, causing the specimen to be rejected. Roche recently performed a large study showing that lubricant containing carbomer was the likely cause of this issue. While UnityPoint Health has made every attempt to remove this lubricant from supply chain, there continues to be a high rate of invalid results (14%). While Roche continues to investigate the continued causes of invalid samples, UnityPoint Health Central Illinois understands the need for continued testing.

Currently, UnityPoint Health Central Illinois is recommending sending a URINE specimen as the preferred testing method for CT/NG, regardless of pelvic exam. UnityPoint Health understands that accuracy and quality results is of the highest importance. Urine sensitivity is only slightly less accurate and outweighs the risk that a patient may not receive a result (Urine: 96% vs Swab: 100%).

Please Note: when submitting a Urine CT/NG COBAS specimen, a COBAS PCR Media container must be submitted with the urine filling the transport container BETWEEN the black lines. Under or over filled specimens will be rejected.



As additional information is available, we will communicate this out via our online test directory, monthly newsletter and/or service notice. We thank you for your understanding and patience with this matter. If you have any questions, please contact our Laboratory Customer Service team at 309-672-4911