To: All Emergency Department Personnel

From: Zane Amenhotep, MD  
Division Chief, Hematology  
Barbara Haller, MD, PhD  
Director, ZSFG Clinical Laboratory

Re: ZSFG Clinical Laboratory to perform VAGINAL WET PREP TEST for ED Patients

Effective Monday September 25, 2017, the Clinical Laboratory will begin offering the Vaginal Wet Prep assay for the detection of trichomonads, clue cells, yeast and/or pseudohyphae. This will replace the provider-performed microscopy testing previously available in the Emergency Department.

For optimal stability and sensitivity, this test requires collecting a vaginal wall sample using the blue-top Amies agar transport swab (BBL Culture Plus). The Amies swab contains a gel preservative which helps to maintain the viability of trichomonads and other cells during transport to the lab.

Sterile tubes with swab in saline will be accepted; however, because trichomonads are only viable for 15 minutes post-collection, evaluation for trichomonads may be affected. It is imperative that providers indicate the collect time and date on the requisition and deliver to the lab promptly in order ensure sample stability. (Securely closed, double-bagged swabs can be tubed to Specimen Processing, tube station #21.) Samples that exceed stated stability will not be assayed.

The expected turn-around-time for results reporting is 30 mins to 1 hour after receipt in the lab. Sample stabilities and reported values are listed below.

Swabs collected in Amies transport (BBL Culture Plus)

- Stability: 24 hours from collect time to receipt time
- Report:
  - Trichomonads: present/absent
  - Clue cells: present/absent
  - Yeast/pseudohyphae: present/absent

Swabs collected in sterile tube with saline

- Stability: Up to 2 hours from collect time to receipt time
- Report:
  - Trichomonads: present/absent *
  - Clue cells: present/absent
  - Yeast/pseudohyphae: present/absent

* Results for swabs in sterile saline received in lab more than 15 minutes post-collection will be amended with the following disclaimer for trichomonads:
  Received in saline, stability exceeded for trichomonads, result may be affected. Send a new specimen in Amies agar if clinically indicated.

- Test Availability: Sun – Sat, 24/7, including weekends and holidays

For questions or concerns, please contact Zane Amenhotep, MD, at (415) 206-8240 or Barbara Haller, MD, PhD, at (415) 206-8588.