

To: Clinicians and Outpatient Offices

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RE: Introducing Xpert® Xpress Multiplex Vaginal Panel (MVP) Assay and Transition from BD Affirm™ Assay

Starting September 29, 2026, the Care New England Laboratories are switching molecular vaginal infection testing platforms from the *BD Affirm™* to the *Cepheid® Multiplex Vaginal Panel (Xpert® Xpress MVP)*. The MVP test utilizes real-time PCR to detect organisms associated with bacterial vaginosis, *Candida spp.*, *Candida glabrata/Candida krusei*, and *Trichomonas vaginalis*. Compared with the *BD Affirm™* assay, PCR nucleic acid amplification utilized by MVP improves sensitivity and is the recommended methodology for testing of trichomoniasis.¹

The MVP assay improves sensitivity of bacterial vaginosis diagnosis, utilizing a 3-target algorithm (*Atopobium spp.*, *Bacterial Vaginosis-Associated Bacterium 2*, and *Megasphaera-1*).

The MVP assay contains probes for *Candida spp.* target (which includes *C. albicans*, *C. tropicalis*, *C. parapsilosis*, and *C. dubliniensis*) and additional targets for *Candida glabrata/Candida krusei*. The specific “callout” for *C. glabrata* and *C. krusei* helps identify the *Candida* species that may be less likely to respond to typical treatments.¹

All these improvements are accomplished with an instrument time of 60 minutes.

MVP - MULTIPLEX VAGINAL (Final result)		
	Value	Range
Bacterial Vaginosis	Negative	Negative
Candida glabrata Candida krusei	Not Detected	Not Detected
Trichomonas vaginalis	Not Detected	Not Detected
Candida Species	Not Detected	Not Detected
Candida species target includes <i>C. albicans</i> , <i>C. tropicalis</i> , <i>C. Parapsilosis</i> and <i>C. dubliniensis</i> . (species not differentiated in result)		

MVP collection kits vary from those that were used for *BD Affirm™* assay. Therefore, upon receipt of this memo, please work with the CNE supply contact assigned to your outpatient office or reach out to the Microbiology Laboratory (401-430-1191) to coordinate delivery of replacement collection kits for MVP. After the go-live date of September 29th and after replacement swabs have been received, please dispose of any residual *BD Affirm™* collection kits to avoid incorrect submissions for vaginitis testing. Specimens collected with *BD Affirm™* collection kits will be rejected after the switch to the MVP assay has commenced.



The MVP collection kits, “Xpert Swab Specimen Collection Kit”, contain a sterile flocked collection swab and an Xpert Swab Transport Reagent (PINK cap). It also contains a large cleaning swab that should **NOT** be used for collecting samples for MVP testing. If a sample contains the larger cleaning swab, the sample will be cancelled for improper collection as it may negatively impact pathogen recovery. Along with these collection kits there will be instructions for collection.



Please reach out to the *Microbiology Laboratory* at (401) 430-1191 with any questions or issues.