

Health Care Provider Bulletin

LifeLabs Service Updates 13/12/2021

Ontario Ministry of Health - Community Access Pilot

As one of your trusted partners for patient care, we wanted to provide you with an update on the Ontario Ministry of Health's Community Access Pilot that launched on November 1st. LifeLabs is pleased to offer your patients access to high-quality, reliable testing available in their local community. With over 240 specimen collection sites across the province, your patients have access to a comprehensive test menu backed by our extensive 60+ years of experience. Please note, there is no change in the responsibilities of the Ordering Clinician for completing the requisition for tests.

The following tests have been added to the list of publicly insured tests as of November 1st.

New Tests Part of the Pilot
Trichomonas (NAAT)
Gonorrhea (NAAT)
Chlamydia (NAAT)
C. difficile – EIA stool antigen
C. difficile – Confirmatory NAAT
Apolipoprotein B
Lipoprotein a [Lp(a)]
Celiac tTG-IgA
IgA quantification (as part of Celiac Screening Panel)
NT-proBNP

Ordering Trichomonas (NAAT), Gonorrhea (NAAT), Chlamydia (NAAT) tests

To complete these tests, LifeLabs requires the Specimens to be collected with the BD ProbeTec CT/GC Qx Amplified DNA Assay collection kit. The male collection kit contains (1) one swab (blue); the female collection kit (pink) contains (2) two swabs; the larger swab is used to clean the excess mucus from the endocervix, and the smaller swab is used to collect the specimen. Please note that the swab container contains liquid.

For urine samples, the patient should not have urinated for at least 1 hour prior to specimen collection. Instruct the patient to collect 20-60 mL of first catch urine (the first part of the stream –not midstream) into the labelled preservative-free plastic sterile urine container. Please note that LifeLabs is unable to process samples collected in APTIMA urine tubes.

Indicate the total volume of urine collected on the 90mL container. Volumes <20 mL or >60 mL may compromise the sensitivity of the test results.

As part of the Ontario Ministry of Health's Community Access Pilot, LifeLabs can now accept these tests when they are ordered on a hospital or public health requisition if they are the only tests requested. A community lab cannot process these requisitions with any tests ordered, that are outside the scope of this pilot at this time.

Changes to LifeLabs' Celiac Serology Panel

On November 15th, LifeLabs' introduced Celiac Screening Panel to align with Ministry of Health recommendations.

Previous Celiac Serology Panel	Celiac Screening Panel as of November 15th
Anti-tTg IgA (Bioplex)* Anti-DGP IgG (Bioplex)*	Anti-tTg IgA (Bioplex)** IgA quantification (Roche c701)**
*Panel is patient pay	**Panel will be OHIP insured as part of the pilot Please indicate "Celiac Screening Panel" on the laboratory requisition to order the above panel.

To order Anti-DGP IgG (Bioplex), please specifically indicate "Anti-DGP IgG" on the laboratory requisition.

LifeLabs is proud to work with the Ministry of Health to provide your patients with access to newly insured tests and share their goal of increasing access to these services. For more information, please contact 1-877-849-3637.