

Announcement of New STD Screening Assay at MCL

The MCL Laboratory would like to announce the availability effective April 12th, 2007, of a STD, Multiplex, Screening Assay for CT (Chlamydia) and GC (Gonorrhea). This assay uses molecular (nucleic acid amplification) technology to maximize sensitivity in keeping with current standards of care. It will be the standard STD screening test for LSU HCSD. The multiplex assay replaces both older assays (CT by EIA and GC Screen by culture) used for the **purposes of screening** for these pathogens, and orders for both CT and GC screening will now be placed together by using the new computer test code [CTGC]. However, please be aware that both CT and GC cultures will remain orderable for specific indications (for instance, for medicolegal purposes or for retesting less than 1 month after therapeutic intervention).

The new multiplex assay is approved for swab specimens taken from either endocervix or male urethra and for urine specimens. Special collection devices and containers are necessary for sending samples to the Laboratory for this assay. The older collection devices should **no longer** be used and the Laboratory will help clinical areas to remove these from circulation.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation during this transition. As always, if you have concerns or questions concerning this new protocol, please do not hesitate to contact the Laboratory.