



## MICROBIOLOGY CHART UPDATES

Pathlab promotes best practice with regards to appropriate testing, specimen collection, specimen analysis, and result reporting.

To assist in these areas we provide supporting documentation for the health professionals that use our services. Over the last few months we have updated and added to the microbiology charts and guides on the Pathlab website [here](#).

### Swab Charts

There have been numerous changes to swabs / tubes used and the associated testing that is performed. The main changes are:

- The general microbiology bacterial swab has changed from a pink to white lid (excluding the Rotorua area).
- Chlamydia/Gonorrhoea molecular testing is now performed using the black top BD ProbeTec Qx tube.
- Pertussis requests on nasopharyngeal swabs should now be for the molecular test and not culture. (We will stop offering culture for *Bordetella pertussis* in the near future.)

### Laboratory Testing Guides

These are a new set of best practice guides with a focus on when to test and the most appropriate specimen(s) to collect.

- UTI
- UTI for Rest Homes
- Faeces – Enteric Pathogen
- Vaginal Swab
- Wound swab

Relevant clinical information should accompany all microbiology specimens (i.e. site, clinical symptoms, why test(s) requested, empiric or proposed treatment). No clinical details may mean testing cannot be performed.

### Antibiotic Susceptibility Profiles

The bacterial susceptibility data for the past year have been compiled and updated. There are no significant changes in comparison to the previous year's data.

If there are any questions with regard to the charts and guides, please contact one of the Clinical Microbiologists or myself.

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