



Change to Atypical Pneumonia Screen

This update refers to the removal of *Chlamydomphila (Chlamydia) pneumoniae* from the routine “atypical pneumonia screen”.

This organism usually causes mild, self-limiting disease. On occasion it can cause disease severe enough to hospitalise the patient. Laboratory diagnosis is retrospective, looking for a fourfold increase in antibody titres over the course of 2-4 weeks.

Waikato Hospital Laboratory (the reference laboratory for the Midlands Region) have not offered *Chlamydomphila pneumoniae* serology for some time now. We would therefore like to change the make-up of the “Atypical pneumonia screen” for samples coming into Pathlab. Currently this includes serology for Legionella species, *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* and *Chlamydomphila pneumoniae*. From 2013 onwards, an atypical pneumonia screen will consist of serology for Legionella species and *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* only.

It is appreciated that in a particularly unwell patient, it may still occasionally be desirable to try and confirm a diagnosis of *Chlamydomphila pneumoniae* infection. If this is the case, please **specifically request** this serology and we will forward the sample on to Canterbury Health Laboratories in Christchurch. They will only test once a convalescent sample on the same patient has been received.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries regarding this change to laboratory protocol.

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CLINICAL UPDATE