



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services

CULTURE IDENTIFICATION AND ANTIMICROBIAL SUSCEPTIBILITY TESTING FOR *NEISSERIA GONORRHOEAE* NOW AVAILABLE AT TEXAS DSHS LABORATORY

Texas DSHS Austin Laboratory is now accepting clinical swabs for *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (GC) culture with reflex antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST) and pure isolates for GC AST in cases of suspected gonorrhea treatment failure. Specimens from sexual contacts of patients with suspected treatment failure gonorrhea are also accepted. These tests are free to all submitters in Texas.

Susceptibility to azithromycin, cefixime, ceftriaxone, and ciprofloxacin will be determined by ETEST® gradient strip diffusion method. Results can be expected within 10 days of specimen receipt.

Acceptable specimens for GC AST are from patients who persistently test positive for gonorrhea after treatment (with or without symptoms) and for whom reinfection has been ruled out, or for disseminated gonococcal infections.

Specimen collection swabs, mailers, and shipping are provided **free of charge** to submitters by DSHS.

NEW SUBMITTERS: To set up a submitter account, download a Submitter ID Number Request Form, available at [Submitter-ID-Request-Form-Sept--2017.pdf \(texas.gov\)](#). Complete all applicable fields and email to labinfo@dshs.texas.gov or fax to 512-776-7533. A Lab Reporting team member will create a submitter account, provide a G2-B submission form, a supply order form, and Security Right forms to request Web Portal access.

GC AST SPECIMEN SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Clinical swabs and pure isolates from patients with suspected gonorrhea treatment failure or disseminated gonococcal infections are accepted.
- Swab specimens must be obtained using Copan ESwab™ Nylon flocked swabs with liquid Amies or Copan Transystem collection and transport kits.
- At least one visible isolate colony on chocolate agar slant or other appropriate media such as trypticase soy broth (TSB).

- Labeled specimens must be accompanied by a **completed G-2B** specimen submission form and copies of any previous related lab results.
 - Submitters **must request** master submission forms by emailing LabInfo@dshs.texas.gov, calling (512) 776-7578 or 1-888-963-7111 ext. 7578 (toll free), or faxing (512) 776-7533.
 - **Do not use** sample submission forms from the DSHS website! Specimens received with sample submission forms cannot be tested.
- Specimen packaging and containers must be compliant with **Category B Biological Substance, UN 3373** shipping requirements.
- All specimens may be shipped at ambient temperatures. If shipping temperatures are likely to exceed 28°C (~82°F), specimens should be packed with enough cold packs to keep them cold for up to 48 hours. **Do not use dry ice.**
- Ship swabs **as soon as possible** after collection. Specimens must be received by DSHS **within one day of collection.**

REQUESTING GC AST ON G-2B SPECIMEN SUBMISSION FORM (SECTION 5)

For Swab Specimens: Check "Neisseria" under "Definitive Identification" column and write "GC AST" under "Clinical Specimen" column.

| Section 5. BACTERIOLOGY | |
|--|---|
| <p><u>Clinical specimen:</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Aerobic isolation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Anaerobic isolation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Culture, stool</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Diphtheria Screen</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> GC/CT, amplified RNA probe</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Haemophilus, isolation (<i>H. influenzae</i> from sterile site or <i>H. ducreyi</i>)</p> <p>GC AST</p> <p><u>Pure culture:</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Anaerobic identification</p> <p>Organism suspected: _____</p> | <p><u>Definitive Identification:</u></p> <p>Organism suspected: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bacillus species</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Campylobacter</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Enteric Bacteria</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gram Negative Rod</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gram Positive Rod</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Legionella</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neisseria</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Pertussis / Bordetella</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Staphylococcus/Streptococcus</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> |

For Isolate Specimens: Check "Neisseria" under "Definitive Identification" column and write "GC AST" in space next to it.

| Section 5. BACTERIOLOGY | |
|---|---|
| <p><u>Clinical specimen:</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Aerobic isolation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Anaerobic isolation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Culture, stool</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Diphtheria Screen</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> GC/CT, amplified RNA probe</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Haemophilus, isolation (<i>H. influenzae</i> from sterile site or <i>H. ducreyi</i>)</p> <p><u>Pure culture:</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Anaerobic identification</p> <p>Organism suspected: _____</p> | <p><u>Definitive Identification:</u></p> <p>Organism suspected: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bacillus species</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Campylobacter</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Enteric Bacteria</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gram Negative Rod</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gram Positive Rod</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Legionella</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neisseria GC AST</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Pertussis / Bordetella</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Staphylococcus/Streptococcus</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> |

ORDERING FREE SWAB COLLECTION KITS AND MAILING SUPPLIES FOR GC AST

- DSHS Lab will provide specimen collection swabs, mailing containers, and UN3373 labels to submitter upon request.
- Call (512) 776 - 7582 to request swab collection kits.
- DSHS **does not** provide supplies for pure isolate submissions.

TESTING AND SPECIMEN SUBMISSION QUESTIONS?

- Question about using AR Lab's FedEx account for the GC AST may be sent to TexasARLN@dshs.texas.gov, or call (512) 776-7582.
- Additional GC AST submission guidance will be added to the Texas Antimicrobial Resistance (TX AR) Lab's webpage soon (found [here](#)). An overview of the DSHS Lab specimen submission process can be found [here](#).