

Lab Testing Update

Vaginal Panel

Effective immediately, the Microbiology Laboratory of St. Elizabeth Healthcare's is now offering a Vaginal Panel which is a molecular test for Gardnerella vaginalis, Candida, and Trichomonas. This was formerly a send out test. This test can be ordered as Medstar #3537, Vaginal Panel.

The collection requires a special collection tube and swab system, the BD Affirm VPIII ambient temperature transport, available from the laboratory. The collection system is specific for the Vaginal Panel test only; no other testing can be performed on this transport, and the Vaginal Panel cannot be performed from any other transport system. Tests such as Chlamydia/ GC, HSV, or culture, must be collected separately. To collect for testing;

1. Add transport reagent to a Sample Collection Tube. This is critical for stabilizing samples for any transport to lab that will take longer than 1 hour from collection. Specimens that are stabilized must be processed within 72 hours. Unstabilized specimens must be processed 1 hour after collection.
2. Using the provided sterile swab, trained personnel will collect vaginal fluid from the posterior vaginal fornix and lateral vaginal wall during a pelvic exam.
3. Place swab into the Sample Collection Tube with the added transport reagent, and break off at score mark. Cap exposed end of tube snugly, cap will snap into place.
4. Label specimen tube with patient information, source, and collection date and time.

The Vaginal Panel will be run at St. Elizabeth Edgewood Laboratory during the first and second shift on Monday through Sunday.

For further question, please contact the Microbiology lab at 859-301-2074.