

# Laboratory News

VOL. 49, NO. 5 September 25, 2026

## New In-House STI Test Offered

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*Beginning October 12<sup>th</sup>, Marshfield Labs is pleased to announce the availability of Mycoplasma genitalium testing in-house.*

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## Why test for *Mycoplasma genitalium*?

*Mycoplasma genitalium* (M. gen) is a sexually transmitted bacterium that infects the urinary and genital tracts of both men and women. It is increasingly recognized as an important sexually transmitted pathogen, with prevalence rates in high-risk populations reported as high as 9-24% in men and 11-16% in women. In some groups, prevalence exceeds that of gonorrhea and is comparable to chlamydia.

M. genitalium is strongly associated with:

- Non-gonococcal urethritis (NGU) in men
- Cervicitis in women
- Pelvic inflammatory disease (PID)
- Infertility
- Preterm birth and spontaneous abortion

Many infections go unrecognized because patients are often asymptomatic or present with symptoms similar to other sexually transmitted infections. In men, M. gen is detected in 15-25% of symptomatic NGU cases and more than 30% of non-chlamydial



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NGU cases. In women, infection is frequently asymptomatic but may still result in cervicitis, urethritis, and adverse reproductive outcomes.

Accurate identification of *M. genitalium* is important because standard treatment regimens for chlamydia, gonorrhea, and trichomoniasis may not effectively eradicate this organism, making targeted diagnosis essential for appropriate patient management and treatment.

## Test Details

### MGEN-NAT – *Mycoplasma genitalium*, NAT

- **Specimen Type:** Aptima® Urine Collection Kit -or - Aptima® Multitest Swab Specimen Collection Kit

#### **Female Patients**

- Vaginal swab (preferred specimen)
  - *A vaginal swab is the preferred specimen type due to its superior clinical sensitivity for detecting *M. genitalium*. When only urine or an endocervical swab is submitted and results are negative despite continued clinical suspicion, collection of a vaginal swab should be considered.*
- Urine

#### **Male Patients**

- Urine
  - Penile meatal swab
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- *NOTE: For Male Urethral and Female Endocervical samples, the send out test to Mayo is still available.*

- **Transport Temperature:** 2-30°C
- **Performed:** Thursdays



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\*\*\*Samples previously collected and tested for Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, or Trichomonas can be used for this testing; patients do not need to be collected again. Providers can call the lab to have this test added on within one week of other STI testing. \*\*\*

## Questions

For inquiries, please contact Dr. Sophie Arbefeville or Dr. Taylor Wahlig in the Clinical Microbiology laboratory at 715-221-6141.