

***Neisseria Gonorrhoeae* (NG) Culture and Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (AST) Availability for California Providers**

Each year in the United States, half of all gonococcal infections are resistant to at least one antibiotic. Currently, only ceftriaxone is recommended as first-line treatment for gonorrhea. The purpose of this resource is to share with California health care providers which laboratories can conduct NG culture and/or AST, which is recommended for the management of [suspected gonorrhea treatment failures](#) and [disseminated gonococcal infections](#).

NG is a fastidious organism that can be challenging to isolate and culture successfully, and not all laboratories are equipped to process specimens. The following is a list of laboratories available to providers working in California that are able to perform both NG culture and AST, NG culture only, or NG AST only.

Providers working for Kaiser Northern and Southern California and Veterans Affairs Health Care should utilize their internal systems for NG culture and AST. Providers in Los Angeles County should contact LA County DPH directly [(562) 658-1300] for further information about NG culture and AST.

Please send any questions about the following resource to stdcb_argc@cdph.ca.gov.

California Department of Public Health (CDPH) does not promote or endorse any particular commercial lab.

Table 1. CA Labs that Perform NG Culture and AST on Specimens Collected Directly from Patients

Laboratory	Contact Information	Tests offered	Specimen Sources	Submission Process	Additional Notes
Quest Diagnostics Home Quest Diagnostics	Contact online via: Help Quest Diagnostics	NG culture w/AST for CRO, CFM, CIP, OFX Can also perform AST only (94587)	Blood, conjunctiva, cervical, pharynx, rectal, urethral, sterile body fluid	Use test code 38404 (CPT 87081) Quest Diagnostics: Test Directory (use Amies gel or ESwab) . If AST done extra charge [CPT 87185, 87181 (x4)]	Requires delivery of specimen to Quest within 24 hours . Culture performed at Sacramento and West Hills sites.

*Antibiotic Abbreviations: AZM-Azithromycin, CFM-Cefixime, CRO- Ceftriaxone, CIP -Ciprofloxacin, TET- Tetracycline, PCN- Penicillin, OFX- Ofloxacin

					AST performed at San Juan Capistrano site.
Labcorp	Contact online via: LabCorp Help for Providers Phone: 800-859-7001	NG culture w/AST for CFM, CRO, CIP, TET.	Body fluid, discharge, pus, swab of genital lesions, or urethral discharge (best for men when available), anus, throat	NG culture test code 008128 (use Amies Gel or inoculate on Jembec or MTM w/Gaspak). No reflex to AST, and this must be requested separately (see below). Lab instructions Work flow: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – NG cx (008128) submitted – If NG isolated successfully, provider/client can request AST (183130). Authorization sent to provider to complete – AST takes about 3-5 days from request 	Specimen must be received within 72 hours, but ideally 24 hours. NG cultures are only stored for 7 days, and then disposed.
San Francisco Public Health Lab	Lab: 628-206-7100 Clinical consult: 628-217-6677	NG culture w/AST for CFM and CRO.	Urethral, cervical, vaginal, pharynx, rectal	Refer patients to City Clinic for further testing.	Special request AST for AZM and CIP.
Humboldt County Public Health Lab	Phone: 707-268-2179	NG culture w/AST for CFM,	Endocervical, vaginal, urethral,	PH Laboratory Requisition – Clinical Microbiology (use Amies Transport Swab,	N/A

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		CRO, CIP, AZM	oropharyngeal, and rectal	which can be provided by the lab)	
San Diego County Public Health Lab (via San Diego Sexual Health Clinics)	South Public Health Center: (619) 409-3089 Central Public Health Center: (619) 229-5400	NG culture w/AST for CFM, CRO, CIP, AZM	Genital, pharynx, rectal	Per clinic guidelines	N/A

Table 2. Labs that Perform NG Culture Only on Specimens Collected Directly from Patients

Laboratory	Contact Information	Tests offered	Specimen Sources	Submission Process	Additional Notes
ARUP Laboratories (in Utah)	General info: (800) 522-2787 clientservices@aruplab.com Bacteriology Dept: (801) 583-2787 x2350	NG culture	Any body site or fluid	Culture test code: 0060714 Must call Bacteriology Dept prior to sending. No requisition needed.	Only nutritive specimens accepted. Need onsite incubation & growth prior to sending.
Orange County Public Health Laboratory (via 17th St Testing, Treatment and Care Clinic)	(714) 834-8787	NG culture	Genital, pharynx, rectal	Per clinic guidelines	AST would likely be sent to CDPH Microbial Diseases Lab.

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Table 3. Labs that Perform AST on Received NG Isolates (isolates first reconfirmed prior to AST)

Laboratory	Contact Information	Tests offered	Specimen Sources	Submission Process	Additional Notes
CDPH Microbial Diseases Laboratory (MDL)	Email: MDL.Submissions@CDPH.ca.gov Phone: (510) 412-3903	AST for AZM, CFM, CRO	No restrictions listed.	Form instructions	N/A
Mayo Clinic Laboratories	Email: mclgloballogistics@mayo.edu Gen phone: 800-533-1710	AST for CFM, CRO, CIP and TET.	No noted exclusions.	Follow guidance ZMMLS - Overview: Antimicrobial Susceptibility, Aerobic Bacteria, Varies (mayocliniclabs.com)	Results: 4-7 days Can order: Cefepime, Cefotaxime, Ceftazidime, Ofloxacin, Penicillin, & Rifampin

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