

# Rapid AST testing for *N. gonorrhoeae* available through AR Lab Network

## For STI providers and affiliated laboratories when gonococcal treatment failure is suspected

Gradient strip AST is now available nationally through CDC's AR Lab Network state or regional laboratories, at no cost, to assist in care of patients with potentially drug-resistant gonorrhea infections. Public health labs performing this testing provide CLIA-compliant susceptibility testing for azithromycin, cefixime, ceftriaxone, and ciprofloxacin. Results are expected within 10 days of receipt.



### PROVIDERS with patients who may have drug-resistant *N. gonorrhoeae*:

If patients persistently test positive for gonorrhea (gonococcus or GC) after treatment (with or without symptoms) and reinfection has been ruled out, or for disseminated gonococcal infection, please consider seeking susceptibility testing of the isolate.<sup>1</sup> Data from this testing helps CDC monitor for new types of resistance and can provide information for treatment decisions.

Consult your public health department or CDC, as needed, and do one of the following:

- Determine if your state or regional public health laboratory will perform testing
- Contact state or regional public health laboratory to request testing and shipping instructions
- Request isolate from laboratory be forwarded. Alternatively, depending on the location, laboratories may provide instructions for collecting and shipping fresh clinical specimens



### LABORATORIES that may isolate drug-resistant *N. gonorrhoeae* in culture:

Please save and be prepared to send isolates of interest to designated public health lab for rapid AST by gradient strip method and to receive CLIA-compliant results for sharing with your providers. Pure frozen or lyophilized isolates, as well as culture growth on media may be sent for testing.



### PUBLIC HEALTH LABS provide instructions, specimen collection materials, and free shipping

Contact your state public health lab or the regional lab performing testing for your region.

**Maryland Public Health Lab-** Includes Maryland and states within Mid-Atlantic, Northeast, Southeast, and Midwest

**Washington State Public Health Lab-** Includes Washington and states within West, Central, and Mountain Regions

<sup>1</sup>Workowski KA, Bachmann LH, Chan PA, Johnston CM, Muzny CA, Park I, Reno H, Zenilman JM, Bolan GA. Sexually Transmitted Infections Treatment Guidelines, 2021. MMWR Recomm Rep. 2021 Jul 23;70(4):1-187. doi: 10.15585/mmwr.rr7004a1. PMID: 34292926; PMCID: PMC8344968.