

MINIMUM TESTING ALGORITHM

CHLAMYDIA TRACHOMATIS INFECTION - TESTING BY NUCLEIC ACID AMPLIFICATION TESTS (NAATs)

VSOP 37

Issued by Standards Unit, Department for Evaluations, Standards and Training
Centre for Infections



UK Clinical Virology Network



Association of Medical Microbiologists
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Issue no: 2.1 Issue Date: 29.09.08 Issued by: Standards Unit, Department for Evaluations and Standards Laboratory on behalf
of
the Virology Working Group on Standards & Quality in conjunction with the HPA Chlamydia Diagnosis Forum Page 1 of 7
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STATUS OF NATIONAL STANDARD METHODS

National Standard Methods, which include standard operating procedures (SOPs), algorithms and guidance notes, promote high quality practices and help to assure the comparability of diagnostic information obtained in different laboratories. This in turn facilitates standardisation of surveillance underpinned by research, development and audit and promotes public health and patient confidence in their healthcare services. The methods are well referenced and represent a good minimum standard for clinical and public health microbiology. However, in using National Standard Methods, laboratories should take account of local requirements and may need to undertake additional investigations. The methods also provide a reference point for method development.

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Representatives of several professional organisations, including those whose logos appear on the front cover, are members of the working groups which develop National Standard Methods. Inclusion of an organisation's logo on the front cover implies support for the objectives and process of preparing standard methods. The representatives participate in the development of the National Standard Methods but their views are not necessarily those of the entire organisation of which they are a member. The current list of participating organisations can be obtained by emailing standards@hpa.org.uk.

The performance of standard methods depends on the quality of reagents, equipment, commercial and in-house test procedures. Laboratories should ensure that these have been validated and shown to be fit for purpose. Internal and external quality assurance procedures should also be in place.

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The reader is informed that all taxonomy in this document was correct at time of issue.

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AMENDMENT PROCEDURE

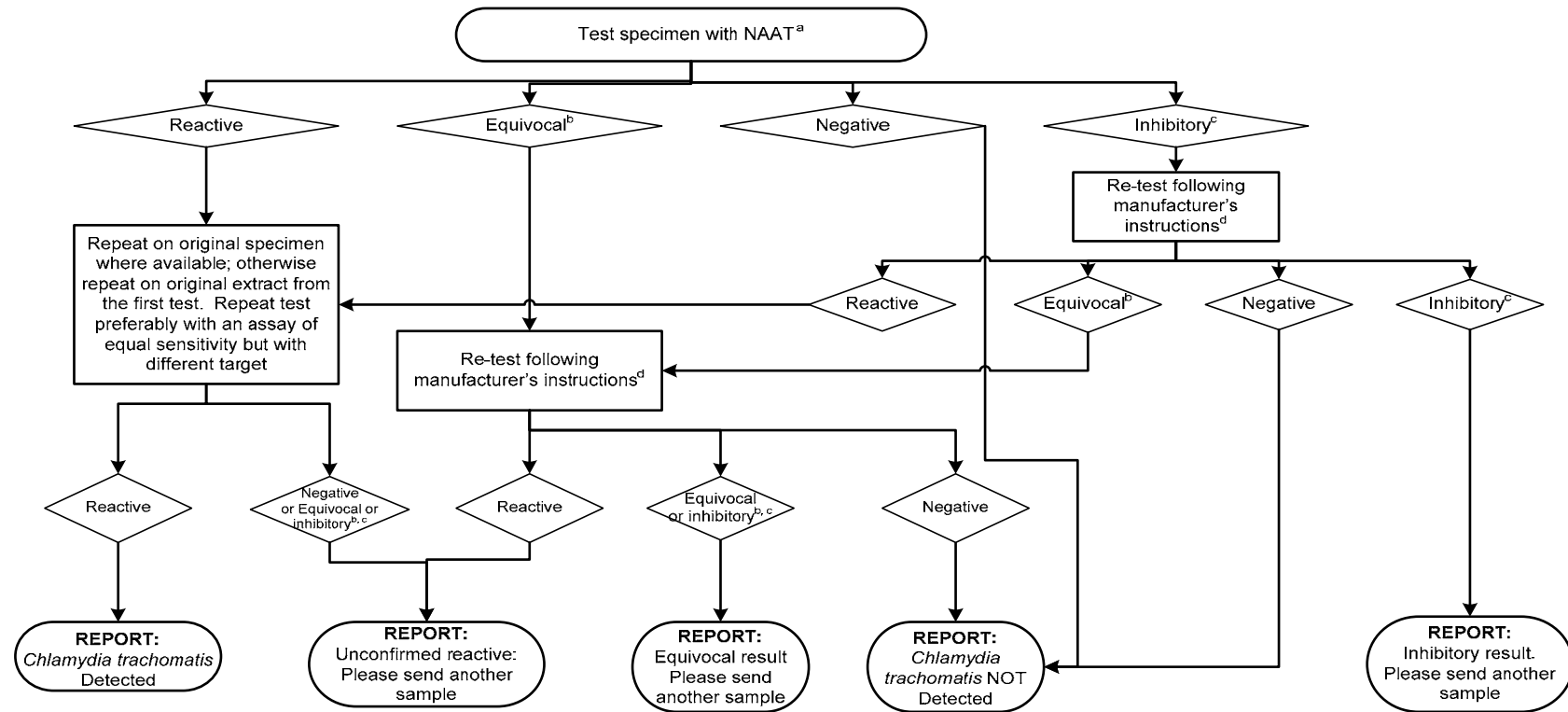
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Each National Standard Method has an individual record of amendments. The current amendments are listed on this page. The amendment history is available from standards@hpa.org.uk.

On issue of revised or new pages each controlled document should be updated by the copyholder in the laboratory.

Amendment Number/ Date	Issue no. Discarded	Insert Issue no.	Page	Section(s) involved	Amendment
1/ 29.09.08	2	2.1	All 2	All Status page	Department name changed Taxonomy sentence inserted.

CHLAMYDIA TRACHOMATIS INFECTION - TESTING BY NUCLEIC ACID AMPLIFICATION TESTS (NAATs)²



^a Laboratories using dual NAATs capable of detecting both *C. trachomatis* and *N. gonorrhoeae* should follow nationally agreed algorithms and confirmatory strategy for the *N. gonorrhoeae* component of the test.

^b It should also be noted that the term 'equivocal' may be different for various platforms eg 'indeterminate'

^c The term 'inhibitory' may be different for various platforms eg invalid

^d Some manufacturers work to a consensus algorithm of the best of three results. This has reagent and staff cost implications.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CONTACTS

This National Standard Method has been developed, reviewed and revised by the HPA Chlamydia Diagnosis Forum in conjunction with the National Standard Methods Working Group for Clinical Virology (http://www.hpa-standardmethods.org.uk/wg_virology.asp). The contributions of many individuals in clinical virology laboratories and specialist organisations who have provided information and comment during the development of this document, and final editing by the Medical Editor are acknowledged.

The National Standard Methods are issued by Standards Unit, Department for Evaluations, Standards and Training, Centre for Infections, Health Protection Agency, London.

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2. Skidmore S, Horner P, Mallinson H. Testing specimens for Chlamydia trachomatis. Sex Transm Infect 2006;82:272-5.

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