



September 22, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: STD Screening Providers

FROM: Anil T. Mangla, MS., Ph.D., M.P.H., FRIPH
Director of Infectious Disease and Immunization

SUBJECT: STD Specimen Submission to the State Lab

The Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH), STD Unit would like to make you aware of the following policy change related to the submission of GC/Chlamydia specimens to the Georgia Public Health Laboratory (GPHL):

- Effective October 1st, 2010, the GPHL will no longer process GC/Chlamydia specimens that do not have an **original** multi-part laboratory submission form with the specimen. Photocopied submission forms will not be accepted.
- Specimens received with a photocopied submission form will be rejected; the submitter will be called and offered the opportunity to pick up the specimen within seven (7) days or it will be destroyed.
- Original submission forms are distributed by the GPHL at the direction of the STD Unit. These forms are provided only to organizations approved by the STD Program and are not available to submitters in general.

GPHL has reported to the STD Unit that a large number of providers are submitting photocopied slips with specimens making it difficult to determine which sites are approved testing sites. In addition, some approved sites are exceeding their limits by the use of photocopied forms. The distribution of lab slips will be coordinated through the STD Unit by Yolanda Worthem, STD Program Associate. Ms. Worthem can be reached at (404) 463-0408 or by email at yworthem@dhr.state.ga.us.

Providers approved to submit specimens to the GPHL should be mindful of the need to check the lab slips for completeness and accuracy prior to submission. The information garnered from these slips is reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in support of funding for statewide STD services. A list of approved providers can be found at <http://health.state.ga.us/programs/std>. To become an approved provider, please visit our website which will provide you with necessary criteria required for approval.

cc: Elizabeth Franko, Dr.P.H.
Mahin Park, Ph.D.

Division of Public Health

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