



Capital Health



MEMORANDUM

TO: Capital Health/IWK Physicians, Clinics, and Nova Scotia District Labs

FROM: Dr. Todd Hatchette / Dr Tim Mailman
Microbiology, CDHA and IWK

DATE: July 16, 2014

RE: Changes in *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* Testing

The IWK has recently changed to PCR for detection of *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*, discontinuing the IgM serology test due to the poor performance for the identification of acute *Mycoplasma* infection. PCR-based detection increases sensitivity and provides more accurate results. Additionally, this PCR assay will also detect and identify *Chlamydia pneumoniae*.

The preferred specimen for patients with suspected *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* infection is a throat swab submitted using an Amies swab.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact either the IWK (902) 470-8271 or the CDHA Microbiology laboratory (902) 473-6881.

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