

Guthrie Medical Group  
POLICY & PROCEDURE

SECTION: Administrative	SUBJECT: <b>PPM Procedures:</b>	DEPT. Point-of-Care Testing Regional Labs
EFFECTIVE: 11/3/16		POLICY# GMG-700-2019
SUPERCEDES: 8/16, 7/16, 3/04		PAGE # 1 of 21
DISTRIBUTION: PPMP CLIA permitted offices		

**I. INTENDED USE:**

Provider-performed microscopy (PPM) is a testing modality that requires the use of a microscope and is performed by physicians and/or non-physician practitioners during the patient's visit. Microscopic observation of clinical specimens allows for rapid detection of the presence of bacterial, fungal and parasitic organisms.

Examination of vaginal secretions, skin, hair and nails with a potassium hydroxide (KOH) or KOH with Swartz enhanced solution is utilized as an aid in diagnosis and classification of carious yeast and fungal infections. As a strong alkali, KOH digests the keratin surrounding the fungi so that the hyphae and spore can be seen.

Wet mount preparations are used to detect the presence of bacterial fungal or parasitic organisms and other cellular elements indicative of pathological conditions (i.e. clue cells and polymorphonuclear leukocytes).

Examination of vaginal secretion for the presence of amniotic fluid is known as the fern test. In conjunction with the patient history and vaginal fluid pH, the fern test is used to determine if the amniotic sac has ruptured. Due to the protein and sodium chloride content, amniotic fluid crystallizes to form a fern pattern when allowed to air-dry on a microscope slide.

The formed elements suspended in the urine are precipitated by centrifugation and analyzed with the microscope. Cellular elements and casts often give valuable information as to the pathology of urinary tract disease, and the detection of metabolic or systemic diseases not directly related to the kidney.

**Scope:**

Personnel: All MD's, NP's and certified Nurse Midwives who have successfully completed training and maintained annual competency.

Testing Sites: All offices with a CLIA certificate to perform Provider Performed Microscopy .

Approved Tests: Vaginal Wet Prep, Potassium Hydroxide (KOH), Fern Test and Urine Sediment.