PROGRAM Standard Operating Procedure – Laboratory Services	
Title: MIC20700-Wet mount reporting in LIS-*Trichomonas* screens	Policy Number:
Program Name: Laboratory Services	
Applicable Domain: Lab, DI and Pharmacy Services	
Additional Domain(s):	
Effective Date:	Next Review Date:
Issuing Authority: Director, Health Services	Date Approved:
Accreditation Canada Applicable Standard: N/A	

GUIDING PRINCIPLE:
Wet mount examination of noninvasively collected specimens can be useful for the rapid, inexpensive detection of *Trichomonas vaginalis*. The sensitivity of the technique varies with the organism and experience of the microscopist but is generally low: about 60 to 70% for *T.vaginalis* in wet mounts of vaginal fluid.

PURPOSE/RATIONALE:
This standard operating procedure describes how to report the Wet Mount results of genital specimens in the LIS in a consistent manner.

SCOPE/APPLICABILITY:
This procedure applies to Medical Laboratory Technologists (MLTs) performing a wet mount on patient samples.

SAMPLE INFORMATION:

Type	• Vagina • Cervix • Urethra (male and female) • Refer to MIC10100-Microbiology Specimen Processing

REAGENTS and/or MEDIA:
- Saline

SUPPLIES:
- Glass microscope slides
- Glass coverslips
- Sharps container

EQUIPMENT

- Microscope
- 35° ambient air incubator

SPECIAL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:

Containment Level 2 facilities, equipment, and operational practices for work involving infectious or potential infectious materials or cultures.

- Ensure that appropriate hand hygiene practices be used.
- Lab gown must be worn when performing activities with potential pathogens.
- Gloves must be worn when direct skin contact with infected materials is unavoidable.
- Eye protection must be used when there is a known or potential risk of exposure of splashes.
- All procedures that may produce aerosols or involve high concentrations or large volumes should be conducted in a biological safety cabinet (BSC).
- The use of needles, syringes and other sharp objects should be strictly limited.

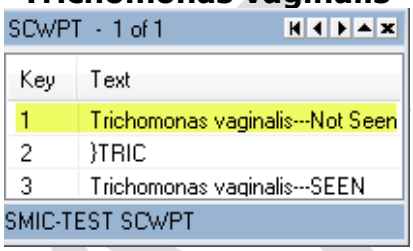
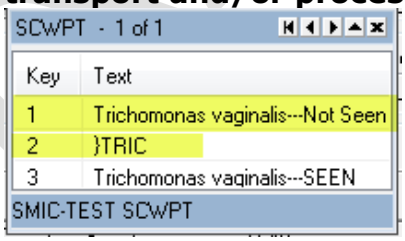
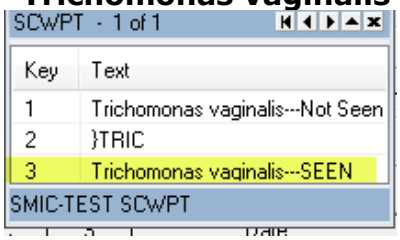
All patient specimens are assumed to be potentially infectious. Routine Practices must be followed. Since viable micro-organisms are used, all cultures must be handled with appropriate precautions. All equipment in contact with cultures should be decontaminated by appropriate methods.

PROCEDURE INSTRUCTIONS:

Step	Action
Reporting wet mounts in the LIS	
1	• Pending wet mounts are found in the LIS under: **Resulting Worklist → WET PREPS**  • Press enter or double click to open worklist
2	Remove rack of wet mount samples from the O_2 incubator after a 15 minute incubation.
3	• Enter the accession number on the test tube and select enter to mark the order • Select enter again to open Result Entry or double click on accession number to open
4	• Verify that the age of the specimen is not ≥72 hours • If specimen is ≥ 72 hours old, specimen is unsuitable for trichomonas analysis and the test needs to be cancelled • Select **Cancel Test** and insert cancelation comment **IXTRICH**

5	• Gently press the swab onto the microscope slide and return it to the original transport tube • Place coverslip on the slide and allow to settle
6	Using the highest dry objective (40X), observe for trichomonads, which are flagellated. **TIP:** Decrease the light of the microscope by closing the diaphragm
7	In order to report trichomonads, the flagella must be seen and motile.
8	Under the test code: **SCWPT**, use the **SCWPT** keypad to report the presence or absence of Trichomonas vaginalis.

REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS:

IF	REPORT
Trichomonas not seen Sample <24 hours old	1. On the SCWPT keypad, select **Key 1** to state: **"Trichomonas vaginalis – Not Seen"**  SCWPT - 1 of 1 Key / Text 1 Trichomonas vaginalis---Not Seen 2 }TRIC 3 Trichomonas vaginalis---SEEN SMIC-TEST SCWPT 2. Finalize SCWPT 3. Preview instant report and save
Trichomonas not seen Sample >24 hours old and <72 hours old	1. On the SCWPT keypad, select **Key 1** to state: **"Trichomonas vaginalis – Not Seen"** 2. On the SCWPT keypad, select **Key 2** to state: **NOTE: The presence of Trichomonas cannot be ruled out since there was a delay >24hrs in transport and/or processing of this specimen."**  SCWPT - 1 of 1 Key / Text 1 Trichomonas vaginalis---Not Seen 2 }TRIC 3 Trichomonas vaginalis---SEEN SMIC-TEST SCWPT 3. Finalize SCWPT 4. Preview instant report and save
Trichomonas seen (Must be motile)	1. On the SCWPT keypad, select **Key 3** to state: **"Trichomonas vaginalis – SEEN"**  SCWPT - 1 of 1 Key / Text 1 Trichomonas vaginalis---Not Seen 2 }TRIC 3 Trichomonas vaginalis---SEEN SMIC-TEST SCWPT 2. Finalize SCWPT 3. Preview instant report and save

Step	Action
Complete reading of wet mounts	
1	• Refresh **WET PREPS** worklist • If finished reading wet mounts, ensure no remaining samples are on the worklist
2	Dispose of slides in sharps container. Place swab in rack designated for the day.

LIMITATIONS:

1. The wet mount is dependent on the expertise of the microscopist.
2. White blood cells are often confused with trichomonads that are no longer moving, which can be avoided by careful examination for the characteristics of the parasite.
3. Delays in transit decrease the ability to detect trichomonads, as they can rapidly lose their motility.

CROSS-REFERENCES:

- MIC10100-Microbiology Specimen Processing

REFERENCES:

1. Leber, A. (2016). *Clinical microbiology procedures handbook.* (4th ed.) Washington, D.C.: ASM Press

APPROVAL:

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Date

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REVISION HISTORY:

REVISION	DATE	Description of Change	REQUESTED BY
1.0	07 Feb 19	Initial Release	L. Steven
2.0	31 Mar 22	Procedure reviewed and added to NTHSSA policy template	L. Steven