

Sexually Transmitted Bacteria Reference Laboratory

Health Protection Agency, 61 Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5HT

Referral of specimens for confirmation of LGV

- STBRL offers a diagnostic service for the detection of Lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV). This is in response to a European LGV outbreak in men who have sex with men (MSM).
- The LGV service is free of charge for specimens which have been confirmed as Chlamydia trachomatis positive at the local laboratory using a nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) and have been sourced from either a symptomatic patient or a direct sexual contact.
- Ideally STBRL will accept rectal swabs from patients with proctitis or urethral swabs, urine or lymph node aspirates from patients with inguinal lymphadenopathy. Either the residual processed NAAT specimen or a dry unprocessed specimen will be accepted.
- In rarer instances STBRL will also accept ulcer swabs, lymph node biopsies, rectal biopsies, and cervical swabs, if there is clinical suspicion of LGV. Please contact the STBRL before sending.
- STBRL do not endorse the testing of rectal swabs by EIA, so if your laboratory only performs EIA tests then we will accept fresh dry swab and the specimen will be processed at a charged.
- None of the commercially available NAATs are approved for testing rectal specimens so we will initially confirm the presence of *C. trachomatis* using a real-time PCR and independent primers. We will then confirm the presence of LGV serovars using molecular methods.
- Specimens referred with insufficient referral information will be processed and the referring laboratory charged.

The laboratory can be contacted by telephone (020 8327 6464) or email stbri@hpa.org.uk