

## Initial experience with the Xpert® CT/NG system in Tauranga

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**Issues:** Antimicrobial stewardship's (AMS) principles, in an era of increased antibiotic resistance, mandate that antibiotic therapy of STIs and STI contacts must be directed by sensitive and specific tests, rather than being empirically administered following presumptive diagnosis and syndromic algorithms.

**Description:** In order to provide rapid, point-of-care diagnosis of Chlamydia (CT) and gonorrhoea (NG) infections, we introduced the use of the Xpert® CT/NG system in our clinic in Tauranga. The system allows for the rapid (90' turnaround time), onsite DNA amplification diagnosis of CT and NG from a variety of clinical samples. The size of the machine is comparable to a desktop computer with printer, and only requires a power point as the single-use cartridges are completely self-contained. As a preliminary step (stage one), we have assessed the staff satisfaction using the test, by administering a 5-item questionnaire using a 5-point, semi-quantitative visual Likert scale (very unsatisfied, unsatisfied, neutral, satisfied, very satisfied).

**Lessons learned:** Staff satisfaction was high, as the score was, for all items and all questionnaires, either 4 or 5 (satisfied or very satisfied).

**Next steps:** We are currently proceeding to stage two of our experience with the test, by evaluating the concordance of the results with the traditional lab-run PCR and assessing the AMS outcomes in terms of avoidance of inappropriate and excessive use of antibiotics.