University Hospitals Division Department of Laboratory Medicine



Clinical Microbiology

Royal Infirmary

General Office 0131 242 6027/6048

Molecular Diagnostics

Consultant Clinical Scientist Dr K Templeton 0131 242 6015

Service Manager Lorna Germain

Operational Manager Julie White

4 July 2022

Dear Colleagues

- On 4 April NHS Lothian transferred their Chlamydia/Gonococcus PCR to the Abbott Alinity platform and this replaced the current service on the Abbott M2000 platform.
- On review of the data assay performance on positive samples is very good, with 100% agreement with positives samples that are positive with Ct value 33 and below. Weak positives are still being repeated for GC until there is more data.
- However, there is now a higher failure rate for the assay it was, 0.5% and now we are seeing this up to 4%. This seems to be across all specimen types and not just on rectal swabs that previously were more likely to be inhibitory. We are working closely with the company Abbott Molecular to understand the reason for this change in performance but no solution has been found as yet.
- This means that more patients are requiring repeat swabs as there is no result obtained on the first swab.
- We apologise for this and are working on a number of solutions to resolve this situation and reduce the failure rate back to the previous service provision.

Kind regards Yours faithfully Kate Templeton Head Of Molecular Diagnostics.

Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, Little France, 51 Little France Crescent, Edinburgh EH16 4SA Western General Hospital, Crewe Road South, Edinburgh EH4 2XU St John's Hospital, Howden, Livingston, EH54 6PP