

GC NAATs Confirmatory Service *Testing Policy*

- STBRL offers a confirmatory service for the molecular detection of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* directly from residual clinical specimens.
- Currently United Kingdom testing guidelines recommend that GC NAATS should only be used if positive predictive value (PPV) of >90 % can be achieved. The low prevalence of gonorrhoeae in most settings, means that for many labs this is not achievable.
- The PPV of GC NAATs can be increased by confirming all positive results using a second, confirmatory assay which targets a different genetic sequence.
- The STBRL GC NAATs confirmatory service is aimed at aiding laboratories -who only have access to a GC NAAT platform with a single target- confirm their GC NAAT positive specimens.
- This service is available for any clinical specimen, which has been determined to be *N. gonorrhoeae* positive at the local laboratory using a NAAT.
- STBRL will accept the residual processed NAAT specimen from any specimen site.
- STBRL will also accept for confirmation any clinical specimen, which is found to be discordant between *N. gonorrhoeae* culture and NAAT.

Sexually Transmitted Bacteria Reference Laboratory
Health Protection Agency, 61 Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5HT

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