



# Management Bulletin

North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health | Laboratory Improvement Unit

## Special Edition: GC-Lect™ Media Program

One of the goals of the Laboratory Improvement (LI) Unit of the N.C. State Laboratory of Public Health (NCSLPH) is to provide support to laboratorians in achieving and maintaining high standards of laboratory practice. To ensure that this goal is met, the unit provides and performs quality control testing on gonorrhea selective media for the local health departments and for select universities. LI follows the guidelines in document M22-A3, *Quality Control for Commercially Prepared Microbiological Culture Media*, set forth by the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute™ (CLSI). The M22-A3 standard provides requirements and recommendations on quality control of commercially prepared microbiology culture media for end users, distributors, and manufacturers. Let's discuss the responsibilities of all parties involved in the GC-Lect™ Media Program that ensures the CLSI standards are followed.



### Becton Dickinson-Manufacturer

- Show successful growth performance of required ATCC strains of bacterial control organisms established by CLSI standards.
- Readily provide to Laboratory Improvement information containing: identification of the type of media, quality control testing results, lot number, expiration date, and appropriate handling and storage conditions.
- Provide media with at least a 30-day expiration date upon delivery to the end user.



### Laboratory Improvement

- Perform quality control testing on the lot number of media approved by the manufacturer.
- Show successful growth performance of recommended ATCC strains of bacterial control organisms established by CLSI standards.

- E-mail the local health departments a memo documenting the success or failure of quality control testing performed on the given lot number of GC-Lect™ media.



### Laboratory Supply Company-Distributor

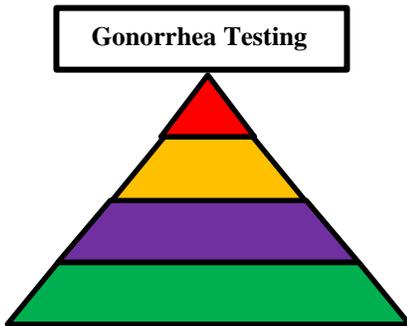
- Comply with the manufacturer's specifications for media storage and handling before and during delivery to the end user to prevent physical and temperature-related damage.
- Ship media to the health departments on ice packs if the temperature exceeds 75°F/23°C to maintain storage temperature conditions of 2-8°C.
- Ensure that packaging material (ex., Styrofoam peanuts) is used during shipment, in order to prevent crushing, cracking, or damage to the media.
- Ensure that the media is delivered to the local health departments and select universities by 4:00 pm on Wednesdays.
- Notify Laboratory Improvement of any delay of media shipment.



### Local Health Departments

- Inspect media upon receipt for cracks, bubbles, media not adhering to the plates, and undissolved hemoglobin (brown chunks).
- Check the most recent GC-Lect™ media memo to verify that the lot number received has been quality control tested and successfully passed by Laboratory Improvement.
- DO NOT USE the GC-Lect™ Media if quality control testing has not been performed and successfully passed.
- Properly store the media in a 2-8°C refrigerator immediately upon receipt.
- Perform and document a sterility check according to your laboratory procedure.

Once the responsibilities have been fulfilled at each level, only then can patient testing proceed. The pyramid ensures that all requirements and recommendations in the M22-A3 document have been completed.



## Recent Changes

- Laboratory Supply Company (LabSco) is the new distributor of the GC-Lect™ Media effective September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014.
- Beginning September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014, the packaging of the GC-Lect™ Media has changed to quantities of 20 per sleeve. The distributor will no longer break down the sleeves of plates and repackage them for shipment to the local health departments. This will help reduce breakage.



## Things to Remember

- Notify Laboratory Improvement **immediately** if: you do not receive your shipment, have broken plates, or need replacement plates.
- DO NOT call the distributor if you have questions regarding your shipment. Please contact Laboratory Improvement immediately.
- Boxes for gonorrhea confirmation testing that is performed at NCSLPH can be ordered through **Angela Bradley** using the form located at <http://slph.ncpublichealth.com/Forms/OrderForm-GC-Mailers-2.pdf>. Fax the order form to 919-715-9243.
- Changes in shipment must be e-mailed to Tiffany Perdue at [tiffany.perdue@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:tiffany.perdue@dhhs.nc.gov) by noon **each** Friday.

Feel free to contact Laboratory Improvement at 919-733-7186 with any questions.

Submitted by:  
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## References

Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute, *Quality Control for Commercially Prepared Microbiological Culture Media*, Approved Standard, M22-A3.

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Agency Specific Contract for Culture Plates and Bio Bags, 2014.

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