NEON Laboratory Services
Provider Performed Microscopy Procedure

Competency Assessment Program
2012-2013
Provider Performed Microscopy Procedure (PPMP)

• In general primary care providers (IM, Peds, ObGyn) are expected to be able to perform simple brightfield microscopy (herein referred to as PPMP) to help expedite patient care.

• PPMP is considered a ‘moderately complex’ test rather than a so-called ‘waived’ laboratory test.

• By complying with an annualized program of competency assessment, the provider will continue to be designated as a ‘PPMP Participating Provider’.
Competency Assessment Program

Proficiency Testing:
• According to CLIA (Clinical Lab Improvement Act) guidelines, bi-annual verification of accuracy of PPMP test results must be performed on all PPMP Participating Providers.

Knowledge Assessment:
• During the 1st year of employment, PPMP providers must undergo a semi-annual knowledge assessment.
• After the 1st year of employment, PPMP providers must adhere to a annual assessment, thereafter, unless the PPMP scope changes.

Competency Oversight:
• The Laboratory Director and Medical Director oversee the Competency Assessment Program.

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PPMP Scope (limited)

- For our purposes, the PPMP scope is limited.
- PPMP scope is currently limited to vaginal wet mount examinations prepared with Normal Saline for the purpose of detecting the following:
  - Evidence of inflammation (e.g., from vaginitis or cervicitis)
  - Evidence of Bacterial Vaginalis
  - Evidence of Trichomonas Vaginitis
  - Evidence of Candida Vaginitis
PPMP Procedure Scope (exclusive)

• For our purposes, the PPMP scope is exclusive.

• KOH preparation is excluded and KOH will not be made available at PPMP laboratory locations.
  
  ▪ Diagnosis of Candida Vaginitis can be based on typical gross appearance of pasty vaginal discharge plus or minus typical symptoms of vaginal itching plus or minus the appearance of yeast elements (pseudohyphae) on wet prep
PPMP Equipment & Materials

• Brightfield microscope
• Microscope slides
• Small cover-slips
• Transfer pipette
• Normal Saline
• Sink, hand hygiene soap or solution, paper towels
• Sharps disposal container

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PPMP Slide Preparation

1. Specimen is collected on a cotton or dacron-tipped swab and smeared on a microscope slide.

2. One drop of normal saline is applied directly to smeared specimen and cover slide is applied.

3. Microscopic exam **must occur** soon after the slide is prepared and **before** the patient exits the clinical unit.
PPMP Examination Procedure

1. Study the slide preparation with brightfield microscopy.

2. With lower power objective, examine slide for the presence of moving parasites
   - A jerky, rotating, non-directional leaf-like motion must be seen to identify Trichomonas sp.

3. With higher power objective, examine for the presence of Clue Cells, yeast elements, blood cell elements.
Disposal & Reporting

1. Dispose of the slide in a sharps disposal unit.

2. Findings **must** be documented in the health record immediately after performing the examination.

3. Normal Reference:
   - Negative for yeast, Trichomonas, blood cell elements, Clue cells

4. Integrate findings immediately with patient care.
A bi-annual assessment of proficiency will be performed in order to evaluate for ‘accuracy’ in test results.

Providers will be given guidance on how to submit a wet prep slide along with the interpretation for verification of accuracy by the Medical Director or Laboratory Director.

If a slide is not submitted for proficiency testing, a slide will be provided for viewing and interpretation and subsequent verification.
PPMP Knowledge Assessment
Expectation

• Providers are expected to get 100% of the Knowledge Assessment correct or acknowledge the correct answers upon correction by the Medical or Laboratory Director in order to be recognized as a PPMP Participating Provider.
PPMP Knowledge Assessment

Instructions

1. There are 10 questions depicted on the following slides.

2. If you are unsure of your answers, feel free to consult with a colleague, text book, or the NEON PPMP Primer located online at the link noted below www.neonproviders.com/proficiency.aspx

3. Record your answers.

4. Compose an email that shows your answer set.

5. Email your answer set to the Medical Director or as otherwise directed.

NEON Medical Services
PPMP Competency Test

Instructions

• To help you see the slides better, zoom in on the slide by clicking on the plus sign on your computer’s tool bar at the top of the screen as pointed out below:
PPMP Knowledge Assessment:  Question 1

- Exhibited is a vaginal wet mount (prepared with normal saline) from a patient with a malodorous vaginal discharge and positive cervical motion tenderness.

In viewing the slide above, which choice below seen in the slide is the most helpful in guiding your management of this patient?

A. Squamous epithelial cells  
B. Clue cells  
C. Granulocytes  
D. Yeast  
E. Trichomonas  
F. Bacteria

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Exhibited is a vaginal wet mount (prepared with normal saline) from a patient with complaint of non-odorous vaginal secretions.

In viewing the slide above, which choice below seen in the slide is the most prominent finding?

A. Squamous epithelial cells  
B. Clue cells  
C. Granulocytes  
D. Yeast  
E. Trichomonas  
F. Bacteria
PPMP Knowledge Assessment:  **Question 3**

- Exhibited is a vaginal wet mount (prepared with normal saline) from a patient complaining of vaginal discharge with a fishy odor.

In viewing the slide above, which single choice below seen in the slide is the most helpful in guiding your management of this patient?

A. Squamous epithelial cells  
B. Clue cells  
C. Granulocytes  
D. Yeast  
E. Trichomonas  
F. Bacteria

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PPMP Knowledge Assessment: **Question 4**

• Exhibited is the same slide from the previous question.

- In viewing the slide, the absence of which single choice below in the wet prep reassures you that this patient should not be experiencing pain.

  A. Squamous epithelial cells  
  B. Clue cells  
  C. Granulocytes  
  D. Yeast  
  E. Trichomonas  
  F. Bacteria
PPMP Knowledge Assessment:  

Question 5

Exhibited is a vaginal wet mount (prepared with normal saline) from a patient with a complaint of a white thick discharge that she has had before.

In viewing the slide above, which choice below seen in the slide is most helpful in guiding your management of this patient?

A. Squamous epithelial cells  
B. Clue cells  
C. Granulocytes  
D. Yeast  
E. Trichomonas  
F. Bacteria
PPMP Knowledge Assessment:  Question 6

• Exhibited is a wet mount (prepared with a drop of saline) of a yellowish vaginal discharge from a sexually active female seeking treatment for the discharge.

In viewing the slide above, which single choice below seen in the slide is most helpful in guiding your management of this patient?

A. Squamous epithelial cells  
B. Clue cells  
C. Granulocytes  
D. Yeast  
E. Trichomonas  
F. Bacteria
PPMP Knowledge Assessment:  

**Question 7**

- Exhibited is a wet mount (prepared with a drop of saline) of a thin vaginal discharge from a sexually active female seeking treatment for the discharge.

In viewing the slide above, which choice below seen in the slide is most helpful in guiding your management of this patient?

- A. Squamous epithelial cells
- B. Clue cells
- C. Granulocytes
- D. Yeast
- E. Trichomonas
- F. Bacteria
PPMP Knowledge Assessment:  **Question 8**

- A NEON provider performed a pelvic exam and collected material to perform a wet prep later on. The doctor was pretty confident that the patient had BV due to a benign pelvic exam, a fishy odorous clear discharge, the patient’s history of this problem, and no sexual activity since her last pelvic exam that was negative for STD.

- Is it reasonable to forego performing a wet prep microscopic examination?

  A. Yes
  
  B. No

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PPMP Knowledge Assessment: Question 9

• The provider from the previous question finally got to performing the PPMP of the wet prep. The patient had already left the health center with a prescription for Metronidazole in hand. As she figured, the exam was positive only for Clue Cells. She documented her findings in the health record right after performing the microscopic.

Did the provider follow NEON’s PPMP protocol in terms of when to document his microscopic findings?

A. Yes
B. No
PPMP Knowledge Assessment: **Question 10**

- One of our providers was concerned about her patient’s complaint of persistent rhinitis. As it so happens, she had recently attended an excellent CME activity that included how to perform a nasal smear for eosinophils. To get credit for this component of the CME, she had to demonstrate proficiency in performing a smear on an actual person during this exciting program. Feeling confident and competent, she performed the smear, couldn’t find any eosinophils, and immediately recorded her findings in the health record.

- Did she do the right thing by NEON’s standards?
  - A. Yes
  - B. No
Thank You