
SPECIMENS FOR SCABIES DIAGNOSIS – CHANGES TO REFERRAL PROCEDURE

23/11/16

Labtests and Northland Pathology Laboratory recently consulted on a proposed change in service to collection of specimens for scabies diagnosis.

Follow [link to view consultation document](#)

OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION

The decision has been taken to limit specimen collection for scabies diagnosis to 'only after discussion' with the clinical microbiologist.

If and when it is decided that specimen collection is required, and cannot be done by the referring clinician, we will endeavour to ensure the specimen is collected by a staff member experienced in this test.

The change will be effective from 1st January 2017

Our decision was based on feedback from a total of nine referrers: 7 GPs, 1 Dermatologist and 1 surgeon.

All responders were supportive of this change, with 2 of the GPs expressing concern that occasionally specimen collection will be required and in that case it is important that an experienced person collects the specimen.

Dr Arlo Upton
Clinical Director
Labtests and Northland Pathology
