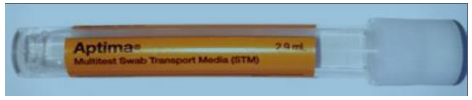
Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Collection Instructions

Purpose

These collection instructions are for the health care provider to collect Chlamydia and Gonorrhea specimens.

Specimen Site/ Test	Collection Device	Collection Instructions	Comments
Vagina – Nucleic Acid Amplification Testing (NAAT) **Preferred specimen type for females to diagnose genital Chlamydia/ Gonorrhea infection**	Small swab with pink shaft for collecting specimen  Swab Specimen Transport Tube  	1. Insert the pink swab into the vagina 3-5 cm past the introitus and rotate gently for 10-30 seconds, touching the vaginal walls, to collect the specimen 2. Remove the cap from the transport tube 3. Place the pink swab into the tube 4. Break the shaft at the scored line and discard the top portion; recap the tube	Swab may be self-collected by patient. Refer to Swab CTGC or Trichomonas Self Collected Vaginal Swabs
Cervix – Nucleic Acid Amplification Testing (NAAT)	Large swab with white shaft for cleaning. Discard and do **not** submit to laboratory  Small swab with blue shaft for collecting specimen  Swab specimen Transport Tube  	1. Use the white swab to remove excess cervical mucus, then discard 2. Insert the blue swab into the cervical canal and rotate gently for 10-30 seconds to collect the specimen 3. Remove the cap from the transport tube 4. Place the blue swab into the tube 5. Break the shaft at the scored line and discard the top portion; recap the tube	If a specimen for Pap testing is being collected at the same time, collect the NAAT specimen before the Pap specimen.
Urethra - Nucleic Acid Amplification Testing (NAAT)	Large swab with white shaft - **DISCARD**  Small swab with blue shaft for collecting specimen  Swab specimen Transport Tube  	1. Insert the blue swab 2-4 cm into the urethra, rotating gently, to collect the specimen 2. Remove the cap from the transport tube 3. Place the blue shaft swab into the tube 4. Break shaft at the scored line and discard the top portion; recap the tube	Patient should not have urinated for at least 1 hour before specimen collection

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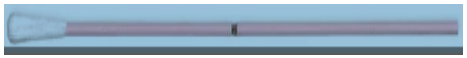
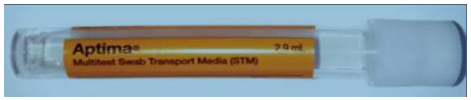
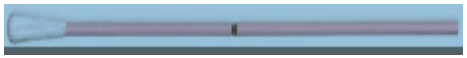
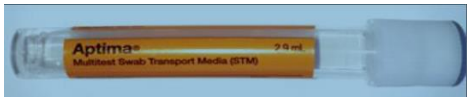
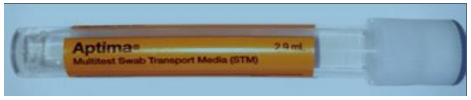
Urine – Nucleic Acid Amplification (NAAT) **Preferred specimen type for males to diagnose genital Chlamydia/ Gonorrhea infection**	Orange top sterile container 	1. Collect the first 20-30 mL of voided urine (NOT midstream)	Patient should avoid urination for 1 hour before specimen collection If more than 60mL is collected, wait 1 hour and recollect another urine specimen.
Eye - Nucleic Acid Amplification (NAAT)	Small swab with pink shaft for collecting specimen  Swab Specimen Transport Tube 	**1.** Hold the blue swab parallel to the cornea and gently rub the conjunctiva in the lower eyelid from nasal side outwards to collect the specimen **2.** Remove the cap from the transport tube **3.** Place the blue swab into the tube **4.** Break shaft at the scored line and discard the top portion; recap the tube	
Rectum - Nucleic Acid Amplification (NAAT)	Small swab with pink shaft for collecting specimen  Swab Specimen Transport Tube 	1. Insert the pink swab through the rectal sphincter 2-3 cm. Gently rotate the swab, touching the walls of the rectum, to collect the specimen. 2. Remove the cap from the transport tube 3. Place the pink swab into the tube 4. Break the shaft at the scored line and discard the top portion; recap the tube 5.	
Throat - Nucleic Acid Amplification (NAAT)	Small swab with pink shaft for collecting specimen  Swab Specimen Transport Tube 	1. Use the pink swab to collect the specimen from the back of the throat without touching the teeth, cheeks, gums, or tongue. 2. Remove the cap from the transport tube 3. Place the pink swab into the tube 4. Break the shaft at the scored line and discard the top portion; recap the tube	

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Cervix, Urethra, Rectum, Throat Culture	Copan (red top) swab for cervix, rectum, throat  Copan (green top) swab for urethra 	1. Remove tube cap and discard 2. Use instructions above to collect specimen based on anatomic site. (Where a white cleaning swab is used, omit this step) 3. Place the swab into the tube and press firmly to close	Avoid the use of lubricants during collection of swabs for culture of gonorrhea. Cervical swabs are preferred to vaginal swabs for gonorrhea culture.

Labelling Instructions

1. Label tube with specific anatomic site from which the sample was taken.
2. Patient samples and requisitions should be labeled with at least 2 patient identifiers (name and date of birth or PHN). Patient samples may be rejected if inappropriately labeled.

Packaging Instructions

- Swabs can be stored at room temperature after collection.
- Urine specimens can be stored at room temperature if being transported immediately but should be refrigerated if transportation time to the lab will be >24 hours.
- Package each patient's specimens in a separate plastic bag (each bag should contain specimens for one patient only).

Comments

- Use APTIMA swabs only for nucleic acid amplification testing (NAAT) – these swabs are **not suitable for GC culture. Use Copan (red-top) swab for GC culture.**
- Chlamydia, Gonorrhea and Trichomonas nucleic acid amplification testing can be performed from a single APTIMA swab.
- Culture for *Chlamydia trachomatis* is not available.