

COLLECTION OF SPECIMENS FOR CHLAMYDIA TRACHOMATIS AND NEISSERIA GONORRHOEAE NAAT TESTING

Collection of Specimens for Microbiology

Proper transport and storage of specimens are prerequisites for reliable culture results. Ensure that the requisition and specimen are labeled with:

- patient's full name
- date of birth or health card number
- **source of specimen**
- date of collection
- time of collection




The examination requested should be specified on the requisition.

Information concerning anti-microbial therapy or allergy, pregnancy, clinical diagnosis, or underlying disease should also be noted.

Specimens should be transported promptly to LifeLabs Laboratory. Delays to processing, beyond the recommended acceptable holding times, will compromise culture results.

All specimens and body fluids are considered potentially hazardous. They should be treated as if capable of causing disease. Clinical information or patient history as provided by the physician determines the scope of the laboratory investigation by ensuring that all laboratory services are relevant or adequate for each clinical situation.

Microbiology Swab & Collection Containers

		
Sterile Container (90 mL)	Chlamydia and GC Female- Pink	Chlamydia and GC Male- Blue
BD ProbeTec CT/GC Q^x Amplified DNA Assay Collection Kit		

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Chlamydia trachomatis & *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*: Nucleic Acid Amplification Testing (NAAT)

Test	Source of Specimen	Collection
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> & <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>* Nucleic Acid Amplification Testing (NAAT)	Endocervical, Urethral, Vaginal	BD ProbeTec CT/GC Q ^x Amplified DNA Assay collection kit. (male – blue; female – pink). Swab container contains liquid.
	Urine	90 mL sterile container

*In patients < 14 years of age, specimens should be submitted for *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* culture in charcoal or clear gel transport medium.

Specimens for *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* NAAT testing should be collected, stored and submitted to the laboratory as described below.

The patient's full name, date of birth or health card number, the source of specimen and date and time of collection should be specified on the requisition and specimen.

All swabs have expiry dates so rotation of stock is important.

NOTE: Testing for both *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* may be performed on the same swab or urine specimen.

Collection of Endocervical Swab for *Chlamydia trachomatis* & *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* NAAT

- Use BD ProbeTec CT/GC Q^x Amplified DNA Assay collection kit. (**female – pink**).
- Remove excess mucus and blood from the endocervix with the large tipped cleaning swab with the white shaft. Discard the cleaning swab.
- Do not pre-wet the pink collection swab prior to collecting the specimen.
- Insert the pink collection swab into cervical canal and rotate for 15-30 seconds.
- Withdraw the swab carefully. Avoid contact with the vaginal mucosa.
- Uncap the CT/GC Q^x Swab Diluent tube.
- Fully insert the pink collection swab into the CT/GC Q^x Swab Diluent tube. Break the shaft of the swab at the score mark. Use care to avoid splashing of contents.
- Ensure the cap is tightly secured.
- Label tube with patient's full name, date of birth or health card number, source of specimen and date and time of collection.
- Place each swab container into a separate Ziploc plastic baggie for transport to the laboratory.
- Store and ship at 2-8°C. Swabs are stable for 30 days.

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Collection of Urethral Swab for Chlamydia trachomatis & Neisseria gonorrhoeae NAAT

- Use BD ProbeTec CT/GC Q^x Amplified DNA Assay collection kit. (**male- blue**).
- Do not pre-wet the blue collection swab prior to collecting the specimen.
- Insert the blue collection swab 2-4 cm into the urethra and rotate for 3-5 seconds.
- Withdraw the swab.
- Uncap the CT/GC Q^x Swab Diluent tube. Fully insert the blue collection swab into the CT/GC Q^x Swab Diluent tube. Break the shaft of the swab at the score mark. Use care to avoid splashing of contents.
- Ensure the cap is tightly secured.
- Label tube with patient's full name, date of birth or health card number, source of specimen and date and time of collection.
- Place each swab container into a separate Ziploc plastic baggie for transport to the laboratory.
- Store and ship at 2-8°C. Swabs are stable for 30 days.

Collection of Urine for Chlamydia trachomatis & Neisseria gonorrhoeae NAAT

- The patient should not have urinated for at least 1 hour prior to specimen collection.
- **Collect 20 to 60 mL of first catch urine** (the first part of the stream- NOT midstream) into a sterile 90 mL container.
- Label the container with the patient's full name, date of birth or health card number, source of specimen and date and time of collection.
- Indicate total volume of urine if <20mL or >60mL is collected.
- Store and ship 2-8°C. Urines are stable for 7 days.

Note: Testing for both Chlamydia and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* may be performed on the same urine specimen.

A separate first catch urine sample is required for molecular testing.

If any other tests are required, e.g. C&S and urinalysis, then another specimen should be collected for these tests.

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Collection of Specimens for Chlamydia Culture

Chlamydia Culture	Non-genital Swabs (rectal, eye, conjunctival scrapings and swabs, pharyngeal)	Chlamydia Culture Kit available from Public Health Laboratories
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- Specimens are collected by the physician in the Chlamydia Culture Kit provided by Public Health Laboratory.
- Label the container with the patient's full name, date of birth or health card number, source of specimen and date and time of collection.
- Specimen **MUST** be transported at 2-8 °C on ice packs to PHL laboratory within 48 hours of collection.
- If longer storage is required, store and transport **FROZEN** at -70 °C on **DRY ICE**.