FEMALE Genital Specimen Collection

- The diagnostic accuracy of microbiology testing is only as good as the specimens it is performed on.
- It is important to collect sufficient material when requesting multiple tests.
- The following is a guide for selection of the proper collection device to use for different types of female genital specimen collection.
- Please package each patient’s specimens in a separate plastic bag (each bag should contain specimens for one patient only).

**Chlamydia and Gonorrhea**

**Endocervical Swab Collection:**
- Use APTIMA swabs ONLY for nucleic acid amplification testing – **NOT SUITABLE** for CULTURE.
- CT and GC nucleic acid amplification testing can be performed from a single APTIMA swab.
- If a sample for Pap testing is being collected at the same time, it is best to collect the CT / GC sample before the Pap sample.

**APTIMA Collection Kit Contents**

1. LARGE SWAB with WHITE SHAFT for CLEANING
2. Small swab with blue shaft for collecting specimen
3. Swab Specimen Transport Tube

1. Use LARGE SWAB with WHITE SHAFT first to remove excess cervical mucous
2. Discard after cleaning
3. Insert the small swab with blue shaft into the cervical canal and rotate to collect the sample for testing
4. **Remove cap from swab transport tube**
5. Place blue shaft swab into tube
6. Break shaft at scored line
7. **Replace cap on tube**

**Urine Specimen Collection:**
1. Urine is an acceptable alternative specimen to an endocervical swab.
2. Collect the first 20–30 mL of voided urine (first part of stream – NOT a midstream).
3. For best results, urine specimens should reach the laboratory / Patient Service Center within 24 hours of collection; however, specimens will be accepted within 72 hours of collection if it was refrigerated.

**Vaginitis (Initial or Recurrent / Chronic)**

**Trichomonas**

Separate vaginal swab required