

Instructions apply to the following tests

- Genital Culture, Bacterial
- Vaginal Candidiasis
- Neisseria gonorrhoeae (GC) Culture

Appropriate Collection Device for these Tests and Sources



ESwab Liquid Amies Swab

- This swab is the typical collection device used for most culture-based tests.
- Note that lid colour may vary (pink vs white)
- **Do NOT confuse ESwab with UTM.** Package label will state ESwab and liquid will be clear.

Instructions by Specimen Source

Vaginal Swab

- Moisten speculum with warm water. Do not use any other lubricant.
- Insert the swab into the vagina about 2 inches (5 cm) past the introitus. Gently rotate the swab 10 to 30 seconds. Make sure the swab touches the walls of the vagina so that moisture/discharge fluid is absorbed by the swab.
- Carefully place the swab in collection device without contaminating it.

Cervical/Endocervical Swab

- Moisten speculum with warm water. Do not use any other lubricant.
- Remove cervical mucus.
- Insert collection swab into cervical canal, move from side to side.
- Allow several seconds for absorption of organisms into the swab.
- Carefully place the swab in collection device without contaminating it.

Urethral Swab

- **Collect 1-2 hours after patient has urinated.**
- Carefully insert thin-tipped swab 2-4 cm into endo-urethra and gently rotate.
- Allow several seconds for absorption of organisms into the swab.
- Carefully place the swab in collection device without contaminating it.

Labelling the Specimen

Label the collection container(s) with **ALL** of the following information:

1. Patient **full first and last name**
2. Patient Personal Health Number (or another unique/personal identifier)
3. The **date and time of specimen collection**
4. If multiple sources collected, **clearly write the source on each swab.**

Packaging and Stability

- Package patient samples in biohazard bag. **To prevent cross contamination always package/bag specimens from different patients separately.**
- Store/transport specimens at room temperature. If *N. gonorrhoeae* is suspected, refrigerate specimen.
- Submit to laboratory for testing as soon as possible. Delays in transport may reduce recovery of organisms, or allow overgrowth by normal flora.

Samples not labelled as required or those that do not have a completed requisition will NOT be tested. Questions? Call the Laboratory Information Centre at 1-403-770-3600.