

Geisinger Medical Laboratories
Quick Reference Guide: Microbiology Specimen Collection Instructions

CHLAMYDIATRACHOMATIS/NEISSERIA GONORRHOEAE/TRICHOMONAS VAGINALIS
(endocervical, vaginal, male urethral, female/male urine)

NOTE:* Gen-Probe DNA Amplified Molecular test for *C. trachomatis/N. gonorrhoeae* and *Trichomonas vaginalis* is not FDA cleared for testing on prepubescent patients (≤ 14 years) or on known cases of sexual abuse. Cultures for *C. trachomatis/N. gonorrhoeae* and *Trichomonas* are indicated in these cases.

Collection Kits: Select depending on specimen type

1. APTIMA® Unisex Swab Collection Kit (endocervical/male urethral)
2. APTIMA® Urine Specimen Collection Kit & sterile urine collection cup
3. APTIMA® Vaginal Swab Specimen Collection Kit



Collection of Endocervical Specimens

1. Remove excess mucus from cervical os and surrounding mucosa using the cleaning swab (white-shaft swab in package with red print) provided in the unisex swab collection kit. **Discard the cleaning swab.**
2. Insert the specimen collection swab (blue-shaft swab in package with green print) provided in the APTIMA® Unisex Swab Collection Kit 1 to 1.5 cm into endocervical canal.
3. Gently rotate swab for 30 seconds in endocervical canal to ensure adequate sampling.
4. Carefully withdraw swab, avoiding any contact with the vaginal mucosa.
5. IMMEDIATELY place the specimen swab (blue-shaft swab only) into an appropriately labeled APTIMA® Unisex Swab transport media tube.
6. Snap off the swab shaft at the score line or cut shaft to fit tube. Avoid splashing of contents.
7. Cap tube.
8. Store and transport at room temperature (2 to 30°C is acceptable).



Collection of Vaginal Specimens

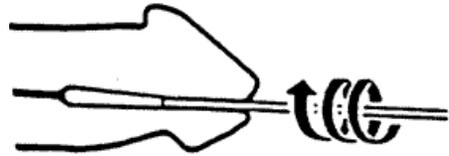
NOTE: The APTIMA® Vaginal Swab Specimen Collection Kit is the only Collection Kit approved for vaginal specimens.

1. Hold the specimen collection swab (pink-shaft swab in package with pink print), placing your thumb and forefinger in the middle of the swab shaft.
2. Carefully insert the swab into the vagina about 2 inches past the introitus and gently rotate the swab for 10 to 30 second. Make sure the swab touches the walls of the vagina so that moisture is absorbed by the swab.
3. Withdraw the swab without touching the skin.
4. IMMEDIATELY place the swab into the APTIMA® Vaginal Swab Specimen Collection Kit transport tube so that the tip of the swab is visible below the tube label.
5. Carefully break the swab shaft against the side of the tube. DO NOT spill the contents of the tube.
6. Cap tube. 7. Store and transport at room temperature (2-30° is acceptable).

Collection of Male Urethral Specimens

NOTE: Patient should not have urinated for at least 1 hour prior to collection.

1. Insert the specimen collection swab (blue-shaft swab in package with green print) provided in the APTIMA® Unisex Swab Collection Kit 2-4 cm into urethra.
2. Once inserted, rotate swab gently at least one full rotation using sufficient pressure to ensure swab comes into contact with all urethral surfaces. Allow swab to remain inserted for two to three seconds.
3. Carefully withdraw swab.
4. IMMEDIATELY place the specimen swab (blue-shaft swab only) into an appropriately labeled APTIMA® Unisex Swab Collection Kit transport media tube.
5. Snap off the swab shaft at the score line or cut shaft to fit tube. Avoid splashing of contents.
6. Cap tube. 7. Store and transport at room temperature (2-30°C is acceptable).



***For female patients that are < 14 years old**

***Chlamydia trachomatis* Culture**

Collect a cervical sample and immediately place swab into a Universal Transport Medium (UTM) .

In Epic, Order Chlamydia Culture to be sent to Reference Laboratory
Transport to laboratory on wet ice.



***Neisseria gonorrhoea* Culture**

Collect a cervical sample and immediately place swab into an E-swab.

In Epic, Order a GC Culture.

Transport sample to laboratory at room temperature.



Collection of Urine Specimens

NOTE: When the APTIMA® Urine Collection Kit is not available, collect the urine specimen in an appropriately labeled sterile urine collection cup, free of preservatives. Store the specimen and transport it to the testing laboratory at room temperature (2-30°C is acceptable). The specimen must reach the testing laboratory within 24 hours of collection.

1. General Guidelines

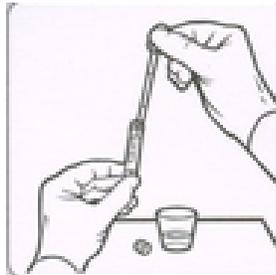
- a. Do not urinate for one hour prior to providing specimen.
- b. 20-30 ml of first-voided urine is the specimen of choice.
- c. Minimum of 2 ml of urine is required.
- d. Do not collect the specimen by catheterization
- e. Females, do not cleanse the labial area prior to providing specimen.



2. Collect the specimen in an appropriately labeled sterile urine cup, free of preservatives.



3. Transfer 2 ml of the urine specimen to the APTIMA® Urine Collection Tube. The correct volume of urine has been added when the fluid level is between the black lines on the collection tube. Do not submit overfilled or underfilled.



4. Recap the urine collection tube.
5. Store the specimen and transport it to the laboratory at room temperature (2-30°C is acceptable).

