

Fact Sheet for the Collection of Genital Specimens for STI

NOTE:

- 1) To maximise detection and obtain sensitivity testing, both PCR and culture (M/C/S) should be performed for *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*. This is at no extra cost to the patient or Medicare.
- 2) To obtain Medicare rebate for gonococcus PCR (as opposed to culture), the term "gonococcus (or equivalent) PCR" should be written explicitly on the request form.

SWABS FOR CHLAMYDIA AND GONOCOCCUS DETECTION

Gel Swab (transport medium) for M/C/S for gonococcus

- Use Male, Female or Unisex Bacteriological Kit, as appropriate.
- Swab urethra or cervix, make slide and place swab in gel medium as per kit instructions.
- This swab is **NOT** suitable for Aptima PCR or chlamydia detection.

Aptima® Gen-Probe Swab Collection kit for chlamydia and gonococcus PCR.

- Use the blue unisex Aptima swab collection kit to obtain swab of cervix, vagina or urethra.
- For method see kit instructions or our "Aptima Specimen Collection Guide".
- This swab is **NOT** suitable for M/C/S for gonococcus.

Females: Three swabs are recommended:

- One **Gel swab of the cervix** for M/C/S for gonococcus.
- One **Aptima swab of cervix, urethra or vagina** for PCR, with request for both PCRs.
- One **high vaginal Gel swab (HVS)** for M/C/S of vaginal pathogens.
- NOTE: If only vagina sampled, take two swabs: one Gel swab for vaginal pathogens and one Aptima swab for **both** chlamydia and gonococcus PCRs.

Males: Two swabs are recommended:

- One **mini tipped Gel swab of the urethra** for M/C/S for gonococcus.
- One **Aptima swab of urethra** for PCR, with request for both PCRs.

APTIMA® GEN-PROBE URINE COLLECTION FOR CHLAMYDIA AND GONOCOCCUS PCR

Patient provides 20 – 30 mls of the 'first part urine' (NOT a mid stream urine), which is tested for chlamydia and gonococcus by PCR, using the Aptima urine collection kit.

- This is a very good alternative to a urethral or cervical swab PCR.
- For method see kit instructions or our "Aptima Specimen Collection Guide".
- Explicitly request chlamydia and gonococcus PCR.
- This specimen is **NOT** suitable for M/C/S for gonococcus.

Other STI testing

- 1) **Herpes:** If painful ulcers are present, take a **Dry swab** for Herpes multiplex PCR (HSV 1, 2, VZV).
- 2) **Syphilis:** If painless ulcers are present, take a **Dry swab** for syphilis PCR.
- 3) **Serology:** Perform serology for Hepatitis B, Syphilis & HIV. Remember to retest for these infections, allowing for the incubation periods of each.

Follow up testing

- A 'test of cure' is not required after treatment as the treatments are highly effective.
- Those who have tested positive for either chlamydia or gonorrhoea should be **re-tested in 3 months**, as they are at high risk of reinfection.