*Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* Nucleic Acid Test Sample Collection Instructions

**Endocervical specimens (Unisex swab):**

 **Note:** If both a **PAP** specimen and an endocervical swab for CT/GC are to be collected, collect the **PAP FIRST**, then the endocervical swab.

1. Remove excess mucus from the cervical os and surrounding mucosa using the cleaning swab (white shaft swab in the package with red printing). Discard this swab.
	* To remove excess mucus from the cervical os, a large-tipped swab (not provided) may be used.
2. Insert the specimen collection swab (blue shaft swab in the package with the green printing) into the endocervical canal.
3. Gently rotate the swab clockwise for 10 to 30 seconds in the endocervical canal to ensure adequate sampling.
4. Withdraw the swab carefully; avoid any contact with the vaginal mucosa or skin.
5. Remove the cap from the swab specimen transport tube and immediately place the specimen collection swab into the transport tube.
6. Carefully break the swab shaft against the side of the tube at the scoreline and discard the top portion of the swab shaft; use care to avoid splashing of contents.
7. **Tightly screw the cap onto the tube and label it with the specimen source (endocervix), collection date, time, collector initials, and 2 patient identifiers (full name/date of birth/MRN).**
8. **Transport to the laboratory or store at** 2-30°C for up to 60 days or -20 to -70°C for up to 12 months.

**Vaginal specimens (Multitest swab):**

1. Partially peel open the swab package. Remove the swab.
	* Do not touch the soft tip or lay the swab down. If the soft tip is touched, the swab is laid down, or the swab is dropped, obtain a new Multitest swab.
2. Hold the swab, placing your thumb and forefinger in the middle of the swab shaft covering the score line.
	* Do not hold the swab shaft below the score line.
3. Carefully insert the swab into the vagina about 2 inches (5 cm) inside the opening and gently rotate the swab for 10 to 30 seconds. Make sure the swab touches the walls of the vagina so that moisture is absorbed by the swab and then withdraw the swab without touching the skin.
4. While holding the swab in the same hand, unscrew the cap from the tube.
	* Do not spill the contents of the tube. If the contents of the tube are spilled, use a new Aptima Multitest Swab Specimen Collection Kit.
5. Immediately place the swab into the transport tube so that the score line is at the top of the tube.
6. Carefully break the swab shaft at the score line against the side of the tube.
7. Immediately discard the top portion of the swab shaft.
8. **Tightly screw the cap onto the tube and label it with the specimen source (vagina), collection date, time, collector initials, and 2 patient identifiers (full name/date of birth/MRN).**
9. **Transport to the laboratory or store at** 2-30°C or -20 to -70°C for up to 60 days.

**Male urethra specimens (Unisex swab):**

**Note:** The patient should not have urinated for at least 1 hour prior to sample collection.

**Note:** Patients should not cleanse the skin surrounding the urethra prior to collection.

1. Insert the specimen collection swab (blue shaft swab in the package with the green printing) 2 to 4 cm into the urethra.
2. Gently rotate the swab clockwise for 2 to 3 seconds in the urethra to ensure adequate sampling.
3. Withdraw the swab carefully.
4. Remove the cap from the swab specimen transport tube and immediately place the specimen collection swab into the transport tube.
5. Carefully break the swab shaft against the side of the tube at the scoreline and discard the top portion of the swab shaft; use care to avoid splashing of contents.
6. Re-cap the swab specimen transport tube tightly.
7. **Label the specimen with the specimen source (urethra), collection date, time, collector initials, and 2 patient identifiers (full name/date of birth/MRN).**
8. Transport the specimen to the laboratory or store the swab in the swab specimen transport tube at 2-30°C for up to 60 days or -20 to -70°C for up to 12 months.

**Urine specimen:**

**Note:** The patient should not have urinated for at least 1 hour prior to specimen collection.

**Note:** Patients should not cleanse the skin surrounding the urethra prior to collection.

1. Direct patient to provide 10-20 ml of first-catch urine (no more than 30 mL of the initial urine stream) into a urine collection cup free of any preservatives.
	* **Collection of larger volumes of urine may result in rRNA target dilution that may reduce test sensitivity and will be rejected.**
2. Transfer 2 ml of urine into the urine specimen transport tube using the disposable pipette provided.
	* The correct volume of urine has been added when the fluid level is between the black fill lines on the urine specimen transport tube label.
3. Re-cap the urine specimen transport tube tightly. This is now known as the processed urine specimen.
4. **Label the specimen with the specimen source (urine), collection date, time, collector initials, and 2 patient identifiers (full name/date of birth/MRN).**
5. Transport the processed urine specimens to the laboratory or store at 2-30°C for up to 30 days.

**Throat specimen (Multitest swab):**

1. **Partially peel open the swab package. Remove the swab.**
* **Do not touch the soft tip or lay the swab down. If the soft tip is touched, the swab is laid down, or the swab is dropped, obtain a new Multitest swab.**
1. **Hold the swab with thumb and forefinger in the middle of the swab shaft covering the score line.**
	* **Do not hold the swab shaft below the score line.**
2. **Carefully insert the swab to the throat, ensuring contact with bilateral tonsils (unless removed) and the back of the throat, then withdraw the swab without touching the inside of the cheeks or tongue.**
3. **While holding the swab in the same hand, unscrew the cap from the tube.**
	* **Do not spill the contents of the tube. If the tube contents are spilled, obtain a new Aptima Multitest kit.**
4. **Immediately place the swab into the transport tube so that the score line is at the top of the tube.**
5. **Carefully break the swab shaft at the score line against the side of the tube.**
6. **Immediately discard the top portion of the swab shaft.**
7. **Tightly screw the cap onto the tube and label it with the specimen source (throat), collection date, time, collector initials, and 2 patient identifiers (full name/date of birth/MRN).**
8. **Transport to the laboratory or store at** 4-30°C or -20 to -70°C for up to 60 days.

**Rectal specimen (Multitest swab):**

1. **Partially peel open the swab package. Remove the swab.**
* **Do not touch the soft tip or lay the swab down. If the soft tip is touched, the swab is laid down, or the swab is dropped, obtain a new Multitest swab.**
1. **Hold the swab with thumb and forefinger in the middle of the swab shaft covering the score line.**
	* **Do not hold the swab shaft below the score line.**
2. **Carefully insert the swab ~1-2 inches (3-5 cm) into the rectum, past the anal margin (outside of the anus) and gently rotate the swab for 5-10 seconds. Withdraw the swab without touching the skin.**
3. **While holding the swab in the same hand, unscrew the cap from the tube.**
	* **Do not spill the contents of the tube. If the tube contents are spilled, obtain a new Aptima Multitest kit.**
4. **Immediately place the swab into the transport tube so that the score line is at the top of the tube.**
5. **Carefully break the swab shaft at the score line against the side of the tube.**
6. **Immediately discard the top portion of the swab shaft.**
7. **Tightly screw the cap onto the tube and label it with the specimen source (rectum), collection date, time, collector initials, and 2 patient identifiers (full name/date of birth/MRN).**
8. **Transport to the laboratory or store at** 4-30°C or -20 to -70°C for up to 60 days.