

Specimen Collection

The quality of specimen collected is extremely important. Detection of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea requires a rigorous and thorough collection technique which provides viable cellular tissues rather than just secretion. For female endocervical specimens, the specimens are invalid if the swab inserted into endocervical cannal is less than 1/2 deep or contaminated by exocervical or vaginal cells. For male urethral specimens, the specimens are invalid if the patient urinates within 1h or the swab inserted into urethra less than 2cm deep

The operation of swab according to the instruction on swab labeling.

For female endocervical specimens:

Use only dacron or polyester tipped sterile swabs. It is recommended to use the swab supplied by the kits manufacturer. *Swabs with cotton tips are not recommended.*

Before specimen collection, remove excess mucus from the endocervical area with a separate swab or cotton ball and discard. The swab should be inserted into the endocervical cannal, past the squamocolumnar junction, until most of the tip is no longer visible. This will permit acquisition of columnar or cubical epithelial cells which are the main reservoir of CT and NG organisms. Firmly rotate (clockwise or anticlockwise) the swab in a circle and stay for 10 seconds without being contaminated with exocervical or vaginal cells.

For male urethral specimens:

Standard Dacron tipped sterile swabs should be used for urethral specimen collection. Instruct the patients not to urinate at least one hour prior to specimen collection.

Insert the swab into the urethra about 2-4cm; firmly rotate (clockwise or anticlockwise) a circle and stay for 10 seconds, withdraw it, and place it into the extraction tube, if the swab may be tested immediately. If not, place the specimen into a dry transport tube for transport and storage.

Storage of specimens:

The swabs maybe stored for 4-6 hours at room temperature (15-30°C) or 24-72 hours at 2-8°C, freeze is forbidden. It is strongly recommended that test the specimen immediately after collection.

All specimens should be brought back into room temperature of 15-30°C before testing.