

PROVINCIAL LABORATORY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH (MICROBIOLOGY)

**Specimen Collection/Transportation Guide For:
Chlamydia trachomatis (CT) and/or Neisseria gonorrhoeae (GC) Testing
By Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)**

SPECIMEN COLLECTION:

Males	Females
Urine or urethral swab (PREFERRED SPECIMEN)	Endocervical swab (PREFERRED SPECIMEN) Urine will be accepted from females; however this has a lower sensitivity for detection.

Note: Rectal, conjunctival or nasopharyngeal swabs, and nasopharyngeal aspirates from infants, are **NOT** suitable for PCR testing.

Urine Specimens: (Patient must not have urinated within the previous 2 hours.)

- Collect 10 to 50 mL of first catch urine (the first part of the stream) into a sterile, plastic screw-capped container without preservatives. Seal the specimen container.

Swab Specimens:

- Use an Amplicor Collection Kit containing: 2 large tip swabs, 1 mini tip swab, 1 sterile tube

Step	Endocervical specimens:	Urethral specimens:
1.	Using a large tip swab, remove excess mucus from the exocervix and discard the swab.	If discharge is present remove it with a large tip swab and discard the swab.
2.	Insert the other large swab into the endocervical canal until the tip of swab is no longer visible.	Insert the mini-tip swab approximately 2 cm into the urethra.
3.	Rotate the swab 3-5 seconds and withdraw, avoiding contact with vaginal surfaces.	Gently rotate the swab for 5 seconds, withdraw and place it in the Amplicor tube.
4.	Place the swab in the Amplicor tube and break-off or clip the excess shaft. Secure cap.	Break off or clip the excess shaft. Secure cap on the tube.

LABELLING, REQUISITIONS AND TRANSPORT:

- Label each specimen with at least 2 patient identifiers (name, identification no., date of birth, PHN)
- Complete a requisition for each specimen; specify specimen source, collection date/time, test required
- Submit each specimen in a sealed biohazard bag with the requisition in the adjoining compartment.
- Transport all specimens requiring shipment in compliance with the transport regulations for etiologic agents.

Transport of Urines	Transport of Swabs
Transport at room temperature within 24 hours. If this is not possible, store at 2-8 °C and send to the laboratory within 4 days of collection.	Transport at room temperature as soon as possible.

Collection kits/devices are available from our order desks at:

Calgary Site

3030 Hospital Drive NW
Calgary, Alberta. T2N 4W4
Phone: (403) 944 – 2583 Fax (780) 944-2317

Edmonton Site

WMC Health Sciences Centre
8440 - 112 Street, Edmonton, Alberta. T6G 2J2
Phone: (780) 407- 8971 Fax (780)407-8984

For more information phone:

Linda Chui, Program Leader Molecular Diagnostics Edmonton site (780) 407-8951

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Effective Feb 1.2003
Revised February 2004