

# Swab Specimen Collection and Transport Procedures for CT/GC NAAT

Chlamydia trachomatis (CT)/Neisseria gonorrhoeae (GC) Q<sup>x</sup> Amplified DNA Assay A Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT)  
Maryland State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Laboratories Administration Chlamydia Lab  
Updated February 23, 2015

Cervix/endocervix, male urethra, and rectal are the only approved SWAB collection sites for the CT/GC NAAT assay offered at the MD DHMH State Laboratory. (NOTE: See separate procedure for urine collection. For any other specimen collection site (throat, etc.), use the ChlamTrans Transport media for the Chlamydia culture assay).

## FEMALE ENDOCERVICAL SWABS

Check the expiration date. Sample must be TESTED by this date. Use the pink BD ProbeTec™ Qx Collection Kit for Endocervical or Lesion Specimens. (Lesion specimens are not appropriate for CT/GC testing. The State Lab does not use the BD Herpes test kit. Use this collection kit only for CT/GC Endocervical swabbing.)

1. Remove the **cleaning** swab (polyester fiber-tipped with **white** shaft) from the packaging and use it to remove excess blood and mucus from the cervical os. Discard the used cleaning swab.
2. Remove the **pink** shafted **collection** swab from the packaging and insert it into the cervical canal and rotate for 15-30 seconds.
3. Withdraw the swab carefully. Avoid contact with the vaginal mucosa.
4. Uncap the Q<sup>x</sup> swab diluent tube and fully insert the collection swab into the tube.
5. Break the shaft of the swab at the score mark (**DO NOT** cut the shaft shorter) using care to avoid splashing and tightly recap.
6. Label the tube with the patient's name (matching the lab slip exactly) and the collection date/time.
7. Complete an **Infectious Agents: Culture/Detection** lab slip. If applicable, place an allocation sticker in the upper left corner **OR** select **Chlamydia trachomatis/GC NAAT**. Be sure to include the source of the specimen (only CX, rectal or male URE) in the box next to the test requested or in the space provided on the allocation sticker. Fill in the collection date.
8. Seal the tube in the zip lock section of a biohazard transport bag and place the form in the outside pocket.
9. **Cervical, male urethral, and rectal** swab specimens must be stored and transported to the lab at 2-30°C for testing within 30 days of collection. Please transport all swabs to the laboratory in an insulated container with cold packs to insure that the acceptable temperature range is not exceeded.

## MALE URETHRAL SWABS

Check the expiration date. Sample must be TESTED by this date. Use the Male (blue) Urethral Specimen Collection Kit for the BD ProbeTec™ CT/GC Q<sup>x</sup> Amplified DNA Assays.

1. Remove the swab from the packaging and insert the swab 2-4 cm into the urethra and rotate for 3-5 seconds.
2. Withdraw the swab.
3. Uncap the Q<sup>x</sup> swab diluent tube and fully insert the collection swab into the tube.
4. Complete an **Infectious Agents: Culture/Detection** lab slip. If applicable, place an allocation sticker in the upper left corner **OR** select **Chlamydia trachomatis/GC NAAT**. Be sure to include the source of the specimen (only CX, rectal or male URE) in the box next to the test requested or in the space provided on the allocation sticker. Fill in the collection date.
5. Seal the tube in the zip lock section of a biohazard transport bag and place the form in the outside pocket.
6. **Cervical, male urethral, and rectal** swab specimens must be stored and transported to the lab at 2-30°C for testing within 30 days of collection. Please transport all swabs to the laboratory in an insulated container with cold packs to insure that the acceptable temperature range is not exceeded.

## RECTAL SWABS

Use the pink BD ProbeTec™ Qx Collection Kit for Endocervical or Lesion Specimens. (NOTE: Lesion specimens are not appropriate for CT/GC testing). Check the expiration date. Sample must be TESTED by this date. The State Lab does not use the BD Herpes test kit. Use this collection kit only for CT/GC Endocervical and or Rectal swabbing.

1. Clean debris using the **white** cleaning swab (polyester fiber-tipped with **white** shaft). Discard the cleaning swab.
2. Remove the **pink** shafted **collection** swab from the packaging and collect cells from the mucosal surface by inserting 1 cm past the anal sphincter, rotating in firm contact with the mucosal surface. Avoid feces and get good contact with the mucosa.
3. Withdraw the swab carefully. Uncap the Q<sup>x</sup> swab diluent tube and fully insert the collection swab into the tube.
4. Complete an **Infectious Agents: Culture/Detection** lab slip. If applicable, place an allocation sticker in the upper left corner **OR** select **Chlamydia trachomatis/GC NAAT**. Be sure to include the source of the specimen (only CX, rectal or male URE) in the box next to the test requested or in the space provided on the allocation sticker. Fill in the collection date.
5. Seal the tube in the zip lock section of a biohazard transport bag and place the form in the outside pocket.
6. **Cervical, male urethral, and rectal** swab specimens must be stored and transported to the lab at 2-30°C for testing within 30 days of collection. Please transport all swabs to the laboratory in an insulated container with cold packs to insure that the acceptable temperature range is not exceeded.

If you have any questions, the Chlamydia lab can be reached at:

Phone: (443) 681-3832, 3825, or 3937

Fax: (443) 681-4508 or 3844.

To request specimen collection slips/supplies, call (443) 681-3776 or 3777.

Visit the lab website for updates: <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/laboratories/SitePages/Chlamydia.aspx>