

*Maryland State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Laboratories Administration
Chlamydia Lab*

**Neat Urine Specimen Collection and Transport Procedures
Chlamydia trachomatis/Neisseria gonorrhoeae Q^x Amplified DNA Assay
A Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT)**

- Approved for male and female urine.
 - **Contamination control within your clinic is extremely important.** One piece of Chlamydial DNA transferred into another sample is theoretically enough to cause that sample to test positive. This assay is that sensitive. Please follow these instructions carefully.
1. The patient should not have urinated for at least 1 hour prior to specimen collection.
 2. Collect the urine specimen in a plastic, sterile, preservative-free, specimen collection cup. Label the cup with the patient's name and date. The patient should collect the **first** 20-60 ml of voided urine (the first part of the stream-not mid-stream, not first of the day.)
 3. Label a specimen tube with the patient's name and the collection date/time. Wear clean gloves and change gloves any time that they come in contact with the urine, especially between the handling of it and another patient's sample.
 4. **THIS STEP MUST BE PERFORMED BY A TRAINED STAFF PERSON, NOT THE PATIENT.** Mix the sample by swirling. Open the packaging of a sterile transfer pipette and remove the pipette. Maintain the sterility of the pipette by handling it only by the bulb. If you need to set it down, slide it back into the packaging. If you drop it, or in any way compromise its sterility, discard it and open another one. Verify a match of the patient's name between the urine cup, the labeled tube and the laboratory request form.
 5. Using the pipette, transfer 2-3 ml of mixed urine from the cup into the tube. Verify that the urine level falls between the 2 fill lines on the tube. If there is insufficient urine to reach the lower line, discard the sample and have the patient return for recollection. If it is above the top line, use the pipette to remove some until the level falls between the lines. The pipette must be used with a single specimen only. When the urine transfer is completed, discard the pipette and the cup with the urine remnant in an appropriate biohazard waste container.
 6. Tighten the black, pierceable cap securely on the labeled specimen tube. If the foil is punctured or missing, do not use the cap. Discard it and get another. Handle the cap by the outside of the cap only. Do not place your finger inside of the cap.
 7. Complete an **Infectious Agents: Culture/Detection** laboratory request form. Select **Chlamydia trachomatis/GC NAAT** or **Chlamydia trachomatis only/ NAAT**. Be sure to include the source of the specimen (UFV-urine first void) in the box next to the test requested. You must fill in the collection date.
 8. Place the tube in the zip locked section of a biohazard transport bag and place the form in the outside pocket.
 9. Refrigerate the specimen immediately and transport to the laboratory in an insulated container with cold packs (2-8°C.) The specimen may **not** be stored or transported at room temperature.
 10. The specimen must be processed within 7 days of collection. It must reach the laboratory registration area by no later than the 6th day (except Friday) to be tested within the 7 day allowance. Specimens received on Friday will not be tested until Monday (Tuesday, if Monday is a holiday.)
 11. Daily clean the work area with freshly diluted 20% household bleach (a solution of one part bleach, 4 parts water) followed with water.

If you have any questions, please call the Chlamydia lab at 410-767-6154.
Request supplies from the Outfit/Supply Room at 410-767-6120 or 410-767-6121