

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION OF SPECIMENS FOR AMPLIFIED, NON-CULTURE *N. gonorrhoeae* & *C. trachomatis* TESTING  
(LANSING LAB ONLY)**

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

Michigan.gov/mdchlab

**RECTAL AND PHARYNGEAL SWABS**

1. Specimens will be collected using a Gen-Probe Aptima Unisex Swab Specimen Collection Kit as follows:

**Throat Swabs:**

- a. Using a tongue blade to hold the tongue down, look at the back of the throat and tonsillar area for inflammation and exudates.
- b. Carefully but firmly rub the swab over the inflamed areas or over the tonsils and posterior pharynx.
- c. Do not touch the cheeks, teeth or gums with the swab.
- d. Place swab in transport as directed in step 2.

**Rectal Swabs:**

- a. Swab the anal crypts just inside the anal ring. Rotate the swab and remove. Avoid fecal contamination as much as possible. If the swab is grossly contaminated with fecal material, discard it and collect another specimen.
  - b. Place swab in transport as directed in step 2.
2. Remove the cap from the swab specimen transport tube and immediately place the specimen collection swab into the transport tube. **Do not discard the preservative in the tube.**
  3. Carefully break the swab shaft at the score-line; use care to avoid splashing of contents. Re-cap the swab specimen transport tube tightly. Dispose the swab shaft following your institutions policy for contaminated medical waste.
  4. Label swab's tube with the same name/unique identifier used on the requisition.
  5. Record the name/unique identifier on the swab's tube for your records. You will use it to link the specimen to the patient.
  6. Package and send the specimens to the laboratory as soon as possible to decrease the potential for equivocal results.
  7. Place up to five, properly labeled transport tubes, into the plastic bag with the adsorbent provided and seal the bag.
  8. Place the sealed plastic bag containing the tube(s) and adsorbent material into the Styrofoam shipping container provided.
  9. Wrap **completed** test requisition(s) around outside of Styrofoam container and slide the Styrofoam and test requisition(s) into the shipping sleeve.
  10. **Complete** and apply return shipping/Biological Substance label provided to shipping sleeve and transport by the most rapid and convenient means available (e.g., a courier, bus, or U. S. First Class, Priority, or Express mail etc.) to the appropriate laboratory as indicated on the shipping label.

**Note: If the specimen container is received leaking, not properly labeled, test requisition not completed or the specimen label does not match the test requisition, or the specimen is greater than sixty days old when received, it will not be tested.**

**NOTE: The shipper is responsible for being sure that their package is in compliance with the current shipping regulations.**