



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

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SPECIMEN COLLECTION & TRANSPORT INSTRUCTIONS

Aptima Collection Kits – **Chlamydia/ Gonorrhea/ Trichomonas/ Mycoplasma genitalium Amplification**

SPECIMEN STORAGE & TRANSPORT

Temperature: refrigerated or room temperature (2 °C – 30 °C / 36 °F – 86 °F)

Maximum Holding Time: 30 days for urine; 60 days for swabs (time from collection to test set-up in lab)

Exceptions: for any exceptions to collection, storage or transport conditions, please call lab first to discuss.

KIT STORAGE

Temperature: room temperature (15 °C – 30 °C / 59 °F – 86 °F)

Expiration: specimen must be collected prior to expiration date listed on kit label

ACCEPTABLE SPECIMEN TYPES

Specimen Type	Chlamydia	Gonorrhea	Trichomonas	M. gen
Urine (female/male)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Unisex Swab - Endocervical (female)	✓	✓	✓	
Unisex Swab - Urethral (male)	✓	✓		
Multitest Swab - Vaginal (female)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Multitest Swab - Throat (female/male)	✓	✓		
Multitest Swab - Rectal (female/male)	✓	✓		

TEST ORDER OPTIONS FOR THIS KIT

2750: Chlamydia Amplified Assay

2770: Gonorrhea Amplified Assay

2850: Trichomonas Amplified Assay

2870: Mycoplasma genitalium Amplified Assay

REJECTION CRITERIA

- collection tube expired prior to date of collection
- holding time greater than 30 days for urine; 60 days for swabs
- specimen tube has leaked or is not sealed properly
- urine specimens with a volume level outside the acceptable range indicated with black arrows
- swab specimens that are missing the swab, contain multiple swabs, or contain the wrong swab
- specimen container not properly labeled
- specimen label information does not directly match the patient information on the requisition

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SPECIMEN COLLECTION

- Verify that the kit is not expired.
- Use Universal Precautions when handling specimens.
- Avoid cross-contamination during the specimen handling steps. Specimens can contain extremely high levels of organisms. Ensure that specimen containers do not contact one another, and discard used materials without passing over any container. Change gloves if they come in contact with specimen.
- If tube transport media is spilled, discard and replace with a new Aptima transport tube.
- Place the transport tube inside the zippered portion of the biohazard specimen bag and seal tightly.
- Fill out the requisition form completely. Fold it in half once (no staples please) and place in the **outer** pocket of the biohazard specimen bag (not inside the zippered pouch with the specimen).

Urine

Patient Instructions

1. Do not urinate for at least one hour prior to collection.
2. Do not cleanse genitals prior to collection.
3. Collect only the first, most concentrated part of the urine stream (about 20 mL to 30 mL) into a collection cup that is free of any preservatives.

Clinic Staff Instructions

1. Using the disposable pipette provided, transfer 2 mL of urine into the transport tube, aiming for the middle of the fill area between the two black arrows.
 - a. If the volume is outside of the acceptable range indicated with black arrows, the specimen **will be rejected**. If urine is under the line, add more. If urine is over the line, discard and replace with a new Aptima urine transport tube.
 - b. Urine specimens must be transferred into the transport tube within 24 hours of collection; however, we find within 2 hours to be optimal.
2. Tightly screw the cap onto the tube.

IF ORDERING THREE OR MORE APTIMA AMPLIFICATION TESTS, COLLECT AND SUBMIT TWO URINE COLLECTION TUBES



Urine Specimen

Swab – Endocervical

1. Remove excess mucus from the cervical os and surrounding mucosa using the cleaning swab (white shaft swab). Discard this swab. If excess mucus remains, an additional large-tipped swab (not provided) may be used for cleaning.
2. Insert the Unisex Swab (blue shaft swab) into the endocervical canal.
3. Gently rotate the swab clockwise for 10 to 30 seconds in the endocervical canal.
4. Withdraw the swab carefully; avoid any contact with the vaginal mucosa.
5. Remove the tube cap and immediately place the swab into the transport tube.
6. Carefully break the swab shaft against the side of the tube at the scoreline and discard the top portion of the swab shaft; use care to avoid splashing of contents.
7. Re-cap the swab specimen transport tube tightly.



Unisex Swab

Swab – Urethral (Male)

1. The patient should not have urinated for at least 1 hour prior to sample collection.
2. Insert the Unisex Swab (blue shaft swab) 2 to 4 cm into the urethra.
3. Gently rotate the swab clockwise for 2 to 3 seconds in the urethra; withdraw the swab carefully.
4. Remove the tube cap and immediately place the specimen collection swab into the transport tube.

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5. Carefully break the swab shaft against the side of the tube at the scoreline and discard the top portion of the swab shaft; use care to avoid splashing of contents.
6. Re-cap the swab specimen transport tube tightly.

Multitest Swab – Vaginal

Note: Vaginal swabs can be collected by the clinician or by the patient. Patient-collected vaginal swab specimens are an option for screening women when a pelvic exam is not otherwise indicated. The vaginal swab specimen collection kit is not for home use.

1. Partially peel open the swab package. Remove the swab. Do not touch the soft tip or lay the swab down. If the soft tip is touched, the swab is laid down, or the swab is dropped, use a new Aptima Multitest Swab Specimen Collection Kit.
2. Hold the swab, placing your thumb and forefinger in the middle of the swab shaft covering the score line. Do not hold the swab shaft below the score line.
3. Carefully insert the swab into the vagina about 2 inches (5 cm) and gently rotate the swab for 10 to 30 seconds. Make sure the swab touches the walls of the vagina so that moisture is absorbed by the swab and then withdraw the swab without touching the skin.
4. While holding the swab in the same hand, unscrew the cap from the tube. Do not spill the contents of the tube. If the contents of the tube are spilled, use a new Aptima Multitest Swab Specimen Collection Kit.
5. Immediately place the swab into the transport tube so that the score line is at the top of the tube.
6. Carefully break the swab shaft at the score line against the side of the tube.
7. Immediately discard the top portion of the swab shaft.
8. Tightly screw the cap onto the tube.



Multitest Swab

Multitest Swab – Throat

1. Pull the swab out of the package. Do not touch the soft tip or lay the swab down.
2. Have patient tilt head back, breathe deeply, open mouth wide and say “Ah”. This serves to lift the uvula and aids in reducing the gag reflex.
3. Gently use tongue depressor to look for areas of inflammation (redness) and exudate (pus).
4. Carefully, but firmly, guide the Multitest Swab over:
 - a. several areas of inflammation or pus
 - b. the tonsils (or tonsillar crypts if tonsils have been removed)
 - c. posterior pharynx (back of throat)
5. Withdraw the swab carefully. Every effort should be made to avoid touching the swabs to the tongue, teeth, roof of the mouth or the inside of the cheeks at any time.
6. Remove the tube cap and immediately place the specimen collection swab into the transport tube.
7. Carefully break the swab shaft against the side of the tube at the scoreline and discard the top portion of the swab shaft; use care to avoid splashing of contents.
8. Re-cap the swab specimen transport tube tightly.

Multitest Swab – Rectal

1. Pull the swab out of the package. Do not touch the soft tip or lay the swab down.
2. Insert the Aptima Multitest Swab approximately 3-5 cm into the rectum.
3. Gently rotate the swab clockwise for 2 to 3 seconds against the rectal wall; withdraw the swab carefully. Swabs that are grossly contaminated with feces should be discarded and the collection repeated.
4. Remove the tube cap and immediately place the specimen collection swab into the transport tube.
5. Carefully break the swab shaft against the side of the tube at the scoreline and discard the top portion of the swab shaft; use care to avoid splashing of contents.
6. Re-cap the swab specimen transport tube tightly.