





## Microbiology Specimen Collection

| Investigation     | Collection Container/kit   | Tests   |
|-------------------|--|---|
| Genital specimens | <b>Genital swab kit &amp; Urine Jar</b><br> | See list for common diseases (See list bottom of age 2)<br><u>Females</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High/Low vaginal swab protocol               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare smear on slide; &amp;/or</li> <li>Send orange-top wire swab and (for Ct/Ng PCR) white-top swabs</li> </ul> </li> <li>Cervical/ Endocervical swab protocol               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare smear on slide;</li> <li>Orange- top wire swab for culture and (the <b>OPTIMAL tests for Ct/Ng in females is PCR via</b>) white-top swab -</li> </ul> </li> <li>First-stream urine as alternative/additional test for Ct/Ng PCR               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No voiding for at least 2 hours, Aim to send 20 ml to lab</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <u>Males</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urethral swab:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare smear on slide; &amp;</li> <li>Orange-top and white-top swab &amp;</li> </ul> </li> <li>First-stream urine (after not voiding for at least 2 hours. Aim to send 20ml to lab.</li> </ul> <p><b>* Ct/Ng PCR =C.trachomatis/N.gonorrhoea PCR</b></p> |
| HSV               |   | (Stand-alone) White-top dry swab  |
| Group B Screen    | <b>Blue Top swab</b><br>                   | Blue-top swab for low vaginal → Anal swab.<br>See <a href="http://ehpolicies.eh.local:90/index.aspx?itemDetails=2546">http://ehpolicies.eh.local:90/index.aspx?itemDetails=2546</a>   |
| General wound MCS | <b>Wound Swab kit</b><br>                 | <u>Open wounds</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clean with a swab moistened with normal sterile saline until red granulation tissue is visible.</li> </ul> <u>Closed wounds</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clean away excess debris and purulent material from the opening.</li> </ul> <p>Use wound swab kit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plain swab – use for smear</li> <li>Blue top swab – use for culture</li> </ul>  |

### General Instructions:

- Label all specimens with
  - Patient's surname and given name
  - UR no , if available,
  - Date of birth
  - Site of collection and
  - Date/time of collection
- Store the specimen's smears/ swabs for M&C at room temperature prior to transport to the laboratory.
- Chlamydia/ Gonorrhoea PCR (white-top) swabs **MUST** be received in an EHP laboratory **within 2 hours of collection**.
- First pass urines for Chlamydia/Gonorrhoea PCR **MUST** be received in the laboratory **within 2 hours of collection**.
- Specimen components not used to be discarded. Return unused components to laboratory for recycling.

| Disease for testing  | Common Aetiologies  | Tests to be undertaken   |
|--|---|--|
| Bacterial Vaginosis (BV)   | Overgrowth vaginal flora with anaerobic bacteria  | Smear on Slide +/- High/ Low vaginal swab (see vaginal discharge)                            |
| Balanitis  | Candida, <i>S. aureus</i> , B-haemolytic Streptococcus  | Wound swab kit   |
| Cervicitis   | Ct/Ng   | Cervical Swab &/or First stream urine  |
| <i>C.trachomatis</i> / <i>N. gonorrhoea</i> (Ct/Ng)  | Ct/Ng   | Female: Cervical Swab &/or First stream urine<br>Male: Urethral Swab &/or First stream urine |
| Epididymitis, Epididymo-Orchitis   | Non-STI ( <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> e.g. <i>E.coli</i> ; <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , Gram positive cocci)<br>vs<br>STI ( <i>N.gonorrhoeae</i> , <i>C.trachomatis</i> )   | Urethral Swab &/or First stream urine  |
| Group B Streptococcus (GBS) screen   | GBS   | Blue-top swab  |
| Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID)<br>- Cervicitis<br>- Endometritis<br>- Oophoritis<br>- Pelvic abscess<br>- Pelvic peritonitis<br>- Salpingitis<br>- Tubo-ovarian Abscess | Non-STI (Termination of pregnancy, retained products of conception, etc. Usually polymicrobial in aetiology)<br>vs<br>STI ( <i>N.gonorrhoeae</i> , <i>C.trachomatis</i> . Less common <i>M.genitalium</i> ) | Cervical swab +/- First stream Urine   |
| Post-partum wound infection  | Polymicrobial   | Wound swab kit   |
| STI or STD   | See Ct/Ng   | See Ct/Ng  |
| Termination of Pregnancy   | See PID   | See PID  |
| Trichomoniasis   | <i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i> . See vulvo-vaginitis  | See vulvo-vaginitis  |
| Ulcers/Genital Ulcers  | Herpes Simplex Virus  | Dry swab (Not within genital pack)   |
| Urethritis (male)  | Ct/Ng   | Urethral Swab &/or First stream urine  |
| Vaginal Discharge  | BV vs vulvo-vaginitis – see appropriate   | See BV vs vulvovaginitis   |
| Vulvo-vaginitis  | <i>N.gonorrhoeae</i> , <i>C.trachomatis</i> , <i>Candida albicans</i> , <i>Trichomoniasis</i><br>Also non-STI causes  | High/low vaginal swab  |

\* Please note the aetiologies listed for disease processes refer to the most common causes.

*Uncontrolled Once Printed; Date of Printing 15/01/2018*