**OSPHL Instructions:**

**Chlamydia and Gonorrhea (CT/GC) Testing**

The purpose of the information below is to help facilities submitting Chlamydia and Gonorrhea specimens to the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory (OSPHL) follow the acceptable practices for ordering, collecting, storing and transporting specimens to the OSPHL. Detail is provided for each specimen type accepted by the OSPHL. Please contact the Virology section at the OSPHL with questions at 503-693-4100.

*How to Order the Test*
- Use the Virology/Immunology Request Form (Form 42), check the “Chlamydia/Gonorrhea by NAAT” box under the “Other” heading.
- Check the appropriate specimen source.

*Specimen Collection and Handling*

**Endocervical or Urethral Specimens, clinician-collected**

Collection Kit
- Unisex Collection Kit, Gen-Probe APTIMA Combo 2

Collection Method
- Carefully follow the instructions printed on the collection kit.
- When collecting male urethral specimens, the patient should not have urinated at least one hour prior to specimen collection.

**Vaginal Specimens, clinician-collected or patient-collected are acceptable**

Collection Kit
- Multitest Collection Kit, Gen-Probe APTIMA Combo 2

Collection Method
- Carefully follow the package insert instructions included with the collection kit.
- These specimens can be either clinician collected or patient-collected at the clinic site.

**Urine Specimens**

Collection Kit
- Urine Specimen Collection Kit, Gen-Probe APTIMA Combo 2

Collection Method
- Carefully follow the instructions printed on the collection kit.
- Collect 20-30 mL of first catch urine in a sterile urine container. Patient should not have urinated for at least one hour prior to specimen collection.
- Transfer urine to the Gen-Probe collection kit.
- Urine level must fall **between** the black fill lines on the kit.
*Rectal Specimens, clinician-collected or patient-collected are acceptable*

Collection Kit
- Unisex Collection Kit, Gen-Probe APTIMA Combo 2

Collection Method
- Insert the blue shaft swab 1 inch into the rectum and rotate against the rectal wall several times, approximately 5-10 seconds.
- Immediately place the blue swab into the specimen transport tube. Break the swab at the scoreline. Recap the tube tightly.

*Pharyngeal Specimens, clinician-collected*

Collection Kit
- Unisex Collection Kit, Gen-Probe APTIMA Combo 2

Collection Method
- Vigorously rub the tonsils and posterior pharynx with the blue shaft swab. The use of a tongue depressor may be helpful.
- Carefully remove the swab, not touching any area of the mouth. Immediately place the blue swab in to the specimen transport tube. Break the swab at the scoreline. Recap the tube tightly.

**Specimen Storage and Transport Instructions**

All sample types may be stored and transported at 4-30°C. Samples may be transported at ambient air temperature or refrigerated. All sample types are stable for 30 days.

**Rejection Criteria**

Specimens will be rejected for the following reasons:
- Inadequately labeled specimens. There must be two unique identifiers on the sample container that match those on the test requisition.
- Broken, contaminated, or leaking specimen tubes.
- Improperly stored or transported specimens.
- Swab specimen transport tubes containing no swab, two swabs, a cleaning swab, or a swab not supplied by Gen-Probe. Multitest (vaginal) kits may only contain the pink shafted swab, unisex kits may only contain the blue shafted swab.
- Specimens with inappropriate volume, including under-filled or over-filled urine collection tubes.
- Specimens collected after the expiration date printed on the collection tube.

* The OSPHL has validated the modification of the current FDA approved procedure for CT/GC testing to include rectal and pharyngeal swabs.

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