

INSTRUCTIONS *NEISSERIA GONORRHOEAE/CHLAMYDIA TRACHOMATIS* DIRECT DETECTION METHODS

Upon receipt and prior to testing, store the sample in its original sealed pouch at 2 – 8°C.

Caution: These specimens may contain pathogenic organisms. Handle with care. Do not create aerosols.

Enclosed are five swabs to be tested for *Chlamydia trachomatis* and/or *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*. These specimens are suitable for **direct testing** by any type of direct detection method (e.g. nucleic acid probe, nucleic acid amplification techniques, EIA or other antigen detection method) **but are not suitable for culture or direct FA staining**. **If you have any questions about whether these swabs are suitable for testing by the method used in your laboratory, please contact Geetha Nattanmai at 518-474-4177.**

Specimen processing

1. Open the mylar bag by cutting the end opposite the label.
2. If your testing method requires the use of a specimen collection tube containing transport media: insert the swab into the transport media and rotate swab to dislodge as much material as possible. Snap off or cut shaft of swab to fit tube. Recap the collection tube and mix thoroughly. Allow the swab to remain in the collection tube for at least one hour, but not more than 24 hours before proceeding with analysis. Follow manufacturer's instructions for incubation temperature.

If no specimen collection tube/transport media is required for your test method, simply process the swab as you do all patient specimens.

NOTE For Gen-Probe Aptima users: The swab must be shortened as follows to prevent errors on the TIGRIS and TECAN platforms –

- Sanitize a pair of clean scissors by carefully wiping with a solution of 50% bleach. Rinse the scissors by wiping with distilled water.
 - Place the swab over an uncapped Aptima Swab Specimen Transport Tube. Using the sanitized scissors, cut the swab shaft approximately 2 inches above the tip.
 - Let the swab fall into the transport tube and cap the tube. It is important that the cut swab is no more than half of its original length.
3. Perform testing for *Chlamydia trachomatis* and/or *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* on the samples according to manufacturer's recommended instructions and your laboratory's procedure for patient testing.
 4. Report the specimens as positive or negative for *Chlamydia trachomatis* and/or *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* in the appropriate space on the report form.