






















DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY SPECIMEN GUIDE

Swab Type	 <b>DO Use For</b>	 <b>DON'T Use For</b>
  <p><b>Pink Top Copan Eswab</b></p>	M,C & S investigations: Wounds Nose Eye Throat Rectal Vaginal	Chlamydia NAAT Gonorrhoea NAAT Trichomonas NAAT
  <p><b>Orange Top Copan Eswab</b></p>	M,C & S investigations: Ear Urogenital tract (GC culture only)	Chlamydia NAAT Gonorrhoea NAAT Trichomonas NAAT Viral PCR
  <p><b>Red Top UTM Viral Swab*</b></p>	Molecular Virology and Bacteriology PCR only  *please note these swabs contain antibiotics and must not be used for M,C & S investigations	Chlamydia NAAT Gonorrhoea NAAT Trichomonas NAAT M,C & S investigations
  <p><b>Orange Aptima Collection Device Self-take Vaginal Swab</b></p>	Chlamydia NAAT Gonorrhoea NAAT Trichomonas NAAT	M,C & S Investigations Viral PCR
  <p><b>White Aptima Collection Device Cervical/Urethral Swab</b></p>	Chlamydia NAAT Gonorrhoea NAAT Trichomonas NAAT	M,C & S Investigations Viral PCR
  <p><b>Yellow Aptima Collection Device Urine</b></p>	Chlamydia NAAT Gonorrhoea NAAT Trichomonas NAAT	M,C & S Investigations Viral PCR

Specimen Container	 <b>DO Use For</b>	 <b>DON'T Use For</b>
 <b>10ml Red Top Boric Acid Urine Container*</b>	Urine cultures and microscopy ?UTI Urine parasites  *check compatibility for dipstick testing with manufacturers guide	Chlamydia NAAT Gonorrhoea NAAT Trichomonas NAAT Pregnancy testing Microalbumin Protein:Creatinine Ratio
 <b>5ml Red Top Boric Acid Urine Container*</b>	Paediatric urine cultures and microscopy ?UTI  Small samples <30ml void urine	Chlamydia NAAT Gonorrhoea NAAT Trichomonas NAAT Pregnancy testing Microalbumin Protein:Creatinine Ratio
 <b>30ml White Top Plain Universal Container</b>	M,C & S investigations: Tissue Fluids Pus Biopsies Virology PCR tests Chlamydia NAAT (if Aptima urine collection device not available)	M,C & S investigations: Urine Sputum
 <b>30ml Brown Top Faeces Container with Spoon</b>	Faecal M, C & S ? C difficile  Faecal parasites  Calprotectin  Gastro-intestinal PCR investigations e.g. Norovirus	Other microbiology M,C & S investigations
 <b>60ml Plain Sputum Pot</b>	M,C & S investigations: Sputum  AAFB / TB Culture (3x samples labelled 1,2,3)	Other microbiology M,C & S investigations

Note specimens in the wrong containers are likely to be rejected. This may be due to the additives used in the pots or the automated systems in use. If you require further guidance please contact Quality Manager [hannah.armitage1@nhs.net](mailto:hannah.armitage1@nhs.net)