

## Testing for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea at WSCL

- The best method for testing for chlamydia and gonorrhea is by molecular tests
- At WSCL, we use a highly sensitive and specific molecular test that can detect both *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* in the same sample
- Culture for *N. gonorrhoeae* should only be done if you need antibiotic susceptibility results because of a significant allergy to ceftriaxone or if symptoms are persistent despite empiric treatment. If you suspect a medico-legal specimen may be required, it is best to discuss with the Sexual Health service.
- The request form must include the patient's full name, NHI and DOB plus the site of the specimen and clinical details. Please label the specimen with the patient's full name, NHI, DOB and the site of the specimen.

### Testing in women

#### Best test in women = Vulvovaginal sample using pink Aptima swab

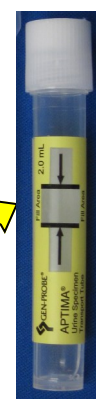
- May be patient-collected or clinician-collected
- This is the preferred test for detecting CT/NG in women. It is still the best test even if doing a speculum exam—take the vulvovaginal swab before placing the speculum
- Please do not send “routine” screens in low risk women when taking smear test
- Urine has lower sensitivity in women and is not recommended
- **How should I take the sample?:** Remove swab from container, wipe the swab around vagina entrance, then insert the swab 4 cm (thumb's depth) into the vagina, count slowly to 5 and replace swab in the container.



### Testing in men

#### Preferred test in men = First void urine (yellow Aptima urine kit)

- Patient collected
- Please use urine collection kit when possible. Urine sent in sterile pot may have reduced sensitivity if processing delayed (e.g. over weekend).
- **How should I take the sample?:** First void urine to collect urethral cells. Collect first ~30mL of voided urine into sterile container, then using provided pipette transfer 2mL of this sample transferred into Aptima urine collection tube and send this to laboratory. The correct volume of urine has been added when the fluid level is between the black lines on the tube.



### Testing for extra-genital chlamydia or gonorrhea

- In any patient with risk factors or symptoms of rectal or pharyngeal chlamydia or gonorrhea, a pink Aptima swab can be sent for molecular testing.

### Gonococcal culture

- Not usually required (see above). If sending—take endocervical swab (women) or urethral swab (men) using a purple (Amies) bacterial culture swab. Including clinical details will be essential.