



# SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY Public Health Laboratory

Phone: (805) 781-5507 Fax: (805) 781-1023 [www.sloPublicHealth.org/lab](http://www.sloPublicHealth.org/lab)

## SPECIMEN COLLECTION & TRANSPORT INSTRUCTIONS

### Neisseria gonorrhoeae Culture

Because of the fastidious and fragile nature of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, careful consideration must be given to proper methods for collection and transport of specimens for testing.

**DO NOT REFRIGERATE SPECIMENS AFTER COLLECTION  
TRANSPORT TO THE PH LABORATORY WITHIN 24 HRS OF COLLECTION.**

Complete the test requisition recording the patient information, with the ORDER "GC CULTURE". Place the specimen and requisition in a specimen bag; leave at a designated location for lab courier pickup. If placed in an opaque bag, mark "DO NOT REFRIGERATE" on the outside of the bag for transport.

**In the event of a Probable Antibiotic Treatment Failure, collect specimen for N gonorrhoeae culture, NOT for an N gonorrhoeae Amplification test**

### SAMPLE COLLECTION

1. ENDOCERVICAL: preferred site for specimens from females.
  - a. Specimen collection should be done with a sterile Dacron swab .
  - b. Rotate swab against the wall of the endocervical canal several times for 20-30 seconds and withdraw without touching the vaginal surface.
  - c. Place the swab in a tube of AMIES TRANSPORT MEDIUM
  - d. Speculum should be lubricated with water only.
2. URETHRAL: preferred site for men.
  - a. Delay obtaining specimens until 2 hrs after patient has last voided.
  - b. Gently insert the urogenital swab into the urethra (women 1-2 cm, men 2-4 cm). Rotate the swab in one direction for at least one revolution for a minimum of 10 seconds: place the swab in a tube of AMIES TRANSPORT MEDIUM.
  - c. Alternatively, if a pus exudate can be expressed from the urethra to the tip of the penis, roll the swab in the exudate; place the swab in a tube of AMIES TRANSPORT MEDIUM.

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3. OROPHARYNX (THROAT):
  - a. Swab the back of throat and tonsillar area with a sterile swab. Place the swab in a tube of AMIES TRANSPORT MEDIUM.
4. RECTAL:
  - a. Insert sterile swab approximately 1-1.5 inches in the anal canal. Move swab from side to side in the anal canal to sample crypts.
  - b. Allow swab to remain 10-30 seconds for absorption of organisms onto the swab.
  - c. Place the swab in a tube of AMIES TRANSPORT MEDIUM.

Gonorrhea cultures are incubated for a minimum of 48-72 hours. Growth is screened for presumptive positives by oxidase test and gram stain. Positive cultures are confirmed by biochemical identification. Results of your test will go directly to the doctor or clinic where the test was ordered. If we should get a positive test, we will call the physician immediately. State law prevents us from giving test results directly to the patient. If you have questions, please call the laboratory at 781-5507, between the hours of 8:00am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday.

### **REJECTION**

Samples will be rejected if they are:

- Unlabelled specimen collection container or incomplete requisition information.
- Improperly Preserved - Specimens must be received in AMIES Transport Medium.
- Refrigerated specimens
- Damaged - Specimen broken or damaged in transit.
- Specimens collected more than 48 hours prior to receipt in the laboratory.