

Improving the health of the people in our communities by
providing quality, compassionate care to everyone, every time

March 03, 2022

Change Notification Information

Chlamydia trachomatis and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* testing

Introduction

Sparrow Laboratories will be updating the method used for *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (CT/NG) testing.

This change will go into effect on 03/21/2022 and will affect the COLLECTION/ TRANSPORT DEVICES.

cobas® CT/NG is an FDA cleared Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT) designed to support a variety of specimen types as recommended by the CDC. **cobas** CT/NG testing provides the laboratory with a more efficient system that will minimize operator time and reduce time to results enabling the laboratory to better serve your needs. This highly sensitive and specific assay will provide accurate results that are minimally equivalent or better as compared to our current method.

Sample Collection Devices

As we change our testing method we will also need to change the sample collection devices.

cobas PCR Media Urine Sample kit

The **cobas**® PCR Urine Sample packet includes a transfer pipet and one tube of **cobas** PCR Media. The transfer pipet is used to transfer urine from the collection cup to the **cobas** PCR Media Tube.

Urine specimens in **cobas** PCR Media are stable at 2 - 30° C for up to 1 year.

Note: If the urine specimen cannot be transferred immediately, it can be stored at 2°C to 30°C for up to 24 hrs prior to transferring to the **cobas** PCR Media Tube.

cobas PCR Media Dual Swab Sample kit

This sample collection kit is intended for the collection of Endocervical specimens and contains 1 polyester woven swab to remove mucus from the cervical os and surrounding mucosa. This woven swab should be discarded. Samples that arrive in the laboratory with the woven cleaning swab **will be rejected**.

The flocked swab is used to collect the specimen from the Endocervical canal.

The kit also contains one tube of **cobas** PCR Media to stabilize the specimen.

The **cobas** PCR Media Dual Swab Sample Kit can also be used for the collection of vaginal specimens. For the collection of vaginal specimens use **only** the polyester woven swab and **discard the unused flocked swab**. Specimens that arrive in the laboratory with 2 swabs **will be rejected**.

Following specimen collection - transport and store the **cobas** PCR Media Tube containing the collection swab at 2°C to 30°C.

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Swab specimens will be rejected by the laboratory:

- If they do not contain a swab
- If they contain 2 swabs

Soon you will receive a starter kit containing sample collection kits, laminated sample collection guides and a bag for the collection of unused sample collection kits, the current Aptima sample kits cannot be used with the new method and will be rejected.

As we move towards this method conversion we will swap your current stock of sample collection kits for CT/NG testing and order on an as needed basis.

Specimen collection kits: cobas PCR Media Urine, Dual sample kits, ThinPrep / PreservCyt vial

Specimen type and collection kit guide

Specimen	Collection and Transport kit
Male Urine	cobas PCR Urine sample kit
Female Urine	cobas PCR Urine sample kit
Vaginal	cobas PCR Media Dual Swab Sample kit
Endocervical	cobas PCR Media Dual Swab Sample kit
Cervical	PreservCyt® Solution

Specimen stability:

- Urine specimens can be stored at 2°C to 30°C for up to 24 hrs prior to transferring to the **cobas** PCR media tube. Urine specimens in **cobas** PCR Media are stable at 2 - 30° C for up to 1 year.
- Transport and store the **cobas** PCR Media Tube containing the collection swab at 2°C to 30°C. Specimens in **cobas** PCR Media are stable at 2 - 30° C for up to 1 year.
- PreservCyt specimens are stable at 2 - 30° C for up to 1 year.

For additional information, please call 517-371-9400 or email walid.khalife@sparrow.org or kara.parsons@sparrow.org

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