



# CONWAY MEDICAL CENTER

## PROCEDURE

When in hard copy form, refer to Policy Manager to validate this as the most current revision.

TITLE:	LAB-SPC-05.07 Collection of Chlamydia Trachomatis Culture-PRO		
ISSUED BY:	Sr Tech, Microbiology	REFERENCE #:	LAB-SPC-05.07-PRO
APPROVED BY:	Lab Director	EFFECTIVE DATE:	2002-01-30

**SCOPE:** All potential collectors of samples for Chlamydia Trachomatis Culture testing.

### **PROCEDURE:**

#### **I. Patient Preparation:**

For urethral culture: Male patients should not urinate for at least one hour prior to culture collection.

#### **II. Supplies:**

- A. Viral Transport Media packet which includes the appropriate swabs. (Red, blue or green-cap/label).
- B. Biohazard bags.
- C. Speculum for cervical, vaginal culture

**NOTE: DO NOT USE SWABS WITH WOODEN SHAFTS AS THESE ARE TOXIC TO CHLAMYDIA.**

#### **III. Storage:**

Store Viral Transport Media in refrigerator at 2-8°C until needed. Do not use past expiration date.

#### **IV. Special Notes:**

- A. Culture is not available for the screening and routine diagnosis of female endocervical and male urethral infections.
- B. Rectal or nasopharyngeal specimens should be submitted for culture. Gen-Probe is not appropriate in cases of assault or sexual abuse.

#### **V. Eye Collection:** Conjunctival swabs may be submitted for culture.

- A. Use a sterile cotton-tipped swab to remove pus or discharge from the eye. Discard this swab into a biohazard container.
- B. Moisten a sterile cotton-tipped swab with Viral transport medium and vigorously swab the afflicted conjunctiva. Place the swab into a tube of Viral transport medium. Care should be taken so that swabbing is sufficient to recover columnar epithelial cells.
- C. Rotate the swab to elute the specimen into the medium. The swab may be left in the medium. Recap the medium.
- D. Refrigerate the sample until it can be transported Quest Diagnostic Laboratory.



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Specimens should be sent without delay.

### VI. Rectal:

- A. Have the patient bear down slightly for ease in insertion of swab.
- B. Moisten the tip of a sterile cotton-tipped swab with Viral transport medium and insert the swab approximately 3 cm into the anal canal using lateral pressure to avoid entering any fecal mass. (If gross fecal contamination of the swab occurs, it should be discarded into a biohazard container and a repeat specimen obtained.)
- C. Rotate the swab to sample crypts just inside the anal ring and allow the swab to remain in the anal area for several seconds for better absorption of organisms onto the swab.
- D. Withdraw the swab and place it into Viral transport medium. Rotate the swab in the medium.
- E. Leave the swab in the medium and recap.
- F. Refrigerate sample until it can be transported to Quest Diagnostic Laboratory.

**NOTE: Fecally Contaminated samples are unacceptable for culture.**

### VII. Male Urethral:

- A. Patient should not have urinated for at least 1 hour prior to sample collection.
- B. Insert swab for collection kit 2-4 cm into urethra.
- C. Once inserted, rotate swab gently at least on full rotation using sufficient pressure to ensure swab comes into contact with all urethral surfaces. Allow swab to remain inserted for 2 to 3 seconds.
- D. Withdraw swab.
- E. Place the swab in the Viral transport medium and rotate the swab in the medium to elute the specimen. Leave the swab in the medium and recap the medium.
- F. Refrigerate the sample until it can be transported to Quest Diagnostic Laboratory.

### VIII. Cervical:

- A. Obtain the cervical specimen with the aid of speculum that has been moistened with water. Other lubricants may contain antibacterial agents.
- B. Insert the speculum and if unable to visualize the cervical OS, remove excess mucus with a large cotton-tipped swab.
- C. Moisten a sterile cotton-tipped swab with Viral transport medium or saline and insert the swab into the endocervical canal approximately 2-3 cm. Move the swab in a rotary motion with sufficient pressure to collect cells for 10-30 seconds. Since Chlamydia are intracellular pathogens, it is important to obtain cervical cells.

**Note:** If the patient is pregnant question her about vaginal bleeding or leakage of fluid from the vagina. If bleeding or leakage has occurred, **DO NOT** do a culture and refer patient to MD. .If no



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bleeding or leakage has occurred, insert swab into the endocervix only until the cotton tip is no longer visible and rotate gently 10-30 seconds.

- D. Remove the swab without touching the vaginal mucosa.
- E. Place the swab in the Viral transport medium and rotate the swab in the medium to elute the specimen. Leave the swab in the medium and recap the medium.
- F. Refrigerate the sample until it can be transported to Quest Diagnostic Laboratory.

### **IX. Vaginal (Children and Hysterectomy Patients):**

- A, Insert speculum after moistening with water.
- B. Moisten a sterile cotton-tipped swab with Viral transport medium or saline.
- C. Insert swab and obtain the specimen by rotating the swab in the posterior vaginal vault.  
Allow a few seconds for absorption of material
- D. Since Chlamydia are intracellular pathogens it is important to obtain both exudates and cells.
- E. Remove the swab and place it in Viral transport medium.
- F. Rotate the swab in the transport medium to elute the specimen.
- G. Leave the swab in the medium and recap.
- H. Refrigerate the sample until it can be transported to Quest Diagnostic Laboratory.

### **X. Specimen Preservation and Transport:**

- A. Refrigerate the specimen until it can be transported.
- B. Transport the chlamydia specimen cold by placing it in a small biohazard bag. Place ice pack in a Styrofoam box within 24-48 hours after collection.

### **XI. Specimen Rejection:**

- A. Improper transport medium
- B. Specimen too old (>24 hours)
- C. No laboratory requisition accompanying specimen
- D. Specimen not labeled
- E. Specimen leaked during transport
- F. Fecally contaminated rectal swabs
- G. Wooden applicators used for collection instead of provided swabs.

### REFERENCES:

Quest Diagnostics Directory of Services, 2016-2017

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### **RECORDS: NA**

### **REFERENCE STANDARDS:**

**I) CAP GEN.40000; GEN40016; GEN.40032; GEN.40050; GEN.40100**



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### REVISION/REVIEW HISTORY:

Date	Affected Section(s)	Summary of Changes ('Reviewed' or details of change)
05/17/2011 mp	None	Review/Revisions saved electronically in lab G drive.
11/03/2011 lds	Format	Changed to MCN policy manager format.
04/03/13mp	Reference	Review. No content changes. Newest format.
03/12/15mp	All	Reviewed. No changes. Updated Reference
3/16/17 mp	All	Reviewed. No content changes. Updated Reference.