

### Special instructions

- Label swabs with patient's full name, date of birth, collection site, and date and time of collection
- Check expiry date of swabs prior to collection
- MULTIPLE swabs are required if multiple tests are requested
- Where a swab has a score-mark, collect sample, break along mark and place swab back into tube
- Ensure lid is firmly placed on all specimens
- Do NOT refrigerate swab specimen
- Do NOT discard liquid from swab
- WARNING: Do NOT put swab into liquid media prior to collection

### Insert swab shaft into tube, snap shaft at marked line and recap tube

#### General swab - culture (M/C/S)/PCR

Sigma Transwab® (standard shaft, orange top)

##### For:

- Culture of bacteria, mycobacteria and fungi
- Multi-resistant organism (e.g. MRSA)
- All PCR tests (excluding those under the yellow, red and pink banner)
- Includes HSV, Syphilis, M.ulcerans, Adenovirus,
- Eye (yellow top swab also required for Chlamydia/Gonorrhoea)



#### Respiratory PCR

Sigma Transwab® (thin shaft, blue top)

- Nasopharyngeal OR Nasopharyngeal/throat (Flu, respiratory viral PCR, Pertussis PCR)
- A nasopharyngeal swab is optimal; throat swab is an alternative.

##### This swab can also be used for:

- Male urethral - Gonorrhoea culture - NOT PCR



#### PCR for Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea, Trichomonas Vaginalis, M.genitalium

cobas® swab (yellow top)

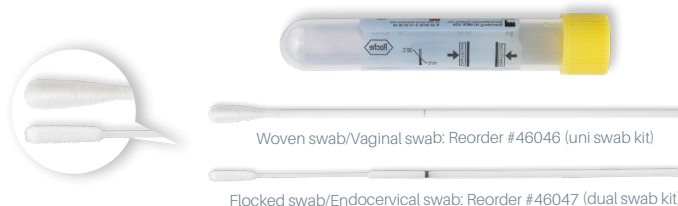
##### For:

- PCR for all Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea, Trichomonas vaginalis and M.genitalium collections.
- Includes urethral, rectal, throat, vaginal and eye swabs (eyes swabs require 2 swabs to be taken - orange top swab and yellow top swab)
- Not suitable for bacterial culture
- Cannot be used for other PCR tests

Vaginal swab: use woven swab (uni kit).

Endocervical swab: first use separate swab to remove cervical mucous, discard, use flocked swab (dual kit).

Male patients: first stream urine preferred.



**WARNING:** Harmful if consumed. Keep out of reach of children. DO NOT put swab into liquid media prior to collection.

#### CST self-collect, buccal swab

Flocked swab (red top)

- Patient self-collect for HPV PCR (as instructed by clinician)
- Buccal swab for genetic tests



#### HPV/CST

ThinPrep®

- CST HPV PCR +/- LBC
  - +/- PCR for Chlamydia/Gonorrhoea
- Use a separate swab to remove cervical mucous, discard. Use the 'Cervex broom' to collect the cervical sample, insert into the ThinPrep® solution and rinse vigorously. Used for Cervical Screening Test as well as HPV PCR testing.



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### Swab selection: A simplified approach

- Swabs are the second most frequently processed specimen type in microbiology and molecular pathology.
- The large variety of different swabs has been a longstanding cause of confusion and avoidable specimen re-collections.
- The Sigma Transwab® is now available and allows the use of a **single type of swab for nearly all microbiological and molecular tests.**

### Advantages of the Sigma Transwab®

- Suitable for Gram stain and bacterial culture from any site and for the same range of bacterial pathogens as previous swab types.
- Suitable for diagnosis of viral infections (by PCR) and some fungal infections (e.g. Candida).
- NOT suitable for STI screening

### Stock replacement

- The process of stock replacement commenced in February 2020.
- During the transition from the current swabs to Sigma Transwab®, either type can be used for specimen collection.
- If you require stock, please fax the Supplies Order Form to (03) 9326 3323.

### Swab guide

- Overleaf you will find a guide to the new range of swabs and the indications for using each one.