

Samples for STI testing – Bexley

Orange Aptima swab



- **Chlamydia & gonorrhoea NAAT**
Sample of choice for women at risk of chlamydia or gonorrhoea

Self-taken vulvo-vaginal swab

Yellow Aptima urine specimen kit



- **Chlamydia & gonorrhoea NAAT** – sample of choice for men at risk of chlamydia or gonorrhoea

First pass urine, sample should be taken > 1 hour since last urinated

Green swab for virology testing



- **Herpes simplex NAAT**
- **Syphilis NAAT**

To swab genital lesions

When requesting, specify the lesion is GENITAL and if vesicle or ulcer

Black or blue Amies gel culture swabs – charcoal or clear jelly



- **Gonorrhoea culture** only if high suspicion of gonorrhoea
Urethral swab for men & endocervical swab for women
Black charcoal swabs preferred due to better isolation rates

- **TV culture** in patients at risk: this test has limitations
High Vaginal Swab usually adds little or no diagnostic value for women with discharge: attend SHIP training
When requesting, *specify clearly you want TV STI testing*

Transport to lab for processing as soon as possible to increase chance of isolation. Never refrigerate these samples. Best left at room temperature if cannot be transported same day.

NAAT = Nucleic Acid Amplification Test

All kits may be stored at room temperature prior to use

Key messages from SHIP Training:

- Rapid risk assessment underpins appropriate and selective use of these tests.
- Encourage use of pH paper for women with vaginal discharge who are not at risk of STI
- Adopt a highly selective approach to the use of HVS. If you haven't yet attended SHIP Training – please go to: www.shiptraining.org.uk or contact clinicallead@shiptraining.org.uk