



STATE HYGIENIC LABORATORY

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA



Neisseria Gonorrhoeae Culture

(Test of Cure only)

Specimen Collection and Shipping Instructions

Submission Requirements

1. *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* is a fastidious organism and requires special collection and handling for enhanced survival. SHL recommends utilizing the Copan Liquid Amies Elution Swab (ESwab™) collection and transport system or a similar type of system.
2. Label container with patient's name or unique identifier and the date of collection. UNLABELED SPECIMENS WILL NOT BE TESTED.
3. A completed **Bacteriology Test Request Form** must accompany the specimen.

Test Request Form

1. Complete **Bacteriology Test Request Form**, including all patient identifiers, by going online to: <http://www.shl.uiowa.edu/testmenu/formgenerator.xml>.
2. Testing is dependent upon complete and accurate information; therefore, results may be delayed if information is not provided. Be sure to include;
 - a. Specimen type
 - b. Date of specimen collection
 - c. Test requested (select all that apply)

Specimen Collection and Handling

Female Endocervical Specimen Collection

1. Remove excess mucus from cervical os and surrounding mucosa using a sterile swab. Discard swab.
2. Carefully remove the culture swab (provided by SHL) from the packaging. Insert swab into endocervical canal.
3. Gently rotate swab clockwise for 20-30 seconds in endocervical canal to ensure adequate sampling.
4. Withdraw swab carefully; avoid any contact with vaginal mucosa.
5. Remove cap from the specimen transport tube and immediately place the specimen collection swab into the specimen transport tube.
6. Holding the swab shaft close to the rim of the tube, break the applicator shaft at the colored breakpoint line, using care to avoid splashing contents.
7. Re-cap the swab specimen transport tube tightly.
8. Proceed with Specimen Handling/Transport instructions below.

Male Urethra Swab Collection

Client should not have urinated for at least 1- 2 hours prior to specimen collection.

1. Carefully remove the culture swab (provided by SHL) from the packaging. Insert culture swab 2-4 cm into urethra.
2. Gently rotate swab for at least one revolution and a minimum of 3 seconds in urethra to ensure adequate sampling.
3. Withdraw swab carefully.
4. Remove cap from the specimen transport tube and immediately place the specimen collection swab into the specimen transport tube.

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Specimen Collection and Handling, continued

5. Holding the swab shaft close to the rim of the tube, break the applicator shaft at the colored breakpoint line, using care to avoid splashing contents.
6. Re-cap the swab specimen transport tube tightly.
7. Proceed with Specimen Handling/Transport instructions below.

Rectal Swab Collection

1. Carefully remove the culture swab (provided by SHL) from the packaging
2. Insert swab ~2 cm into the anal canal. Rotate swab to sample anal crypts.
3. Remove cap from the specimen transport tube and immediately place the specimen collection swab into the specimen transport tube.
4. Holding the swab shaft close to the rim of the tube, break the applicator shaft at the colored breakpoint line, using care to avoid splashing contents.
5. Re-cap the swab specimen transport tube tightly.
6. Proceed with Specimen Handling/Transport instructions below.

Oropharyngeal Swab Collection

1. Carefully remove the culture swab (provided by SHL) from the packaging
2. Depress tongue gently with tongue depressor.
3. Swab the back of the throat and tonsillar area. Ensure any inflamed or ulcerated areas are swabbed.
4. Remove cap from the specimen transport tube and immediately place the specimen collection swab into the specimen transport tube.
5. Holding the swab shaft close to the rim of the tube, break the applicator shaft at the colored breakpoint line, using care to avoid splashing contents.
6. Re-cap the swab specimen transport tube tightly.
7. Proceed with Specimen Handling/Transport instructions below.

Specimen Handling

1. Carefully break swab shaft at score line (use care to avoid splashing contents); allow the swab portion to go into the transport media.
2. Screw the cap back on to the tube and ensure that it is securely fastened shut.
3. After collection, the swab must be transported to the lab ASAP at room temperature (~25°C).
4. One swab per transport tube.
5. Label transport tube (swab) with the patient's name and date of birth and the date of collection.
6. Specimens must be received at SHL **within 24 HOURS** of collection.
7. Wrap the specimen in absorbent material, and place into a biohazard bag and seal.
8. Use one biohazard bag per specimen.

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Shipping Instructions

1. Include completed **Bacteriology Test Request Form** in the side pocket of the biohazard bag.
2. Specimens must be received at SHL within **24 HOURS of collection**.
3. Send the specimen at AMBIENT TEMPERATURE (~25°C).
4. Ship multiple specimens in packaging compliant with USPS or IATA regulations

Contact Information

1. For test collection kits, go online to <http://www.shl.uiowa.edu/kitsquotesforms>, or call (319) 335-4466
2. For *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* questions: (319) 335-4448