pathlab

Swab Chart
October 2026

		Description	Swab/Kit Name	Shaft	Transport Medium	Comments	TEST					SITES									
							Bacterial	Virus NAAT	Pertussis NAAT	STI Molecular Panel#	Herpes (skin)	Sterile sites	Wounds / Skin	Low nose	Naso-pharynx	Throat	Conjunctival	Ear	Vaginal	Urethral	Cervix, Rectal / STI
CULTURE SWABS – BACTERIAL												ASPIRATES OR TISSUE SAMPLES PREFERABLE									
White Screw Top Tube		General purpose **bacterial culture** swab (including Throat; MDRO screens – MRSA, ESBL, CPE, VRE; and gonorrhoea culture)	Copan eSwab	Rigid snap-able	Liquid Amies Medium	* Use **green** BD tube for STI molecular (chlamydia, gonorrhoea, +/- trichomonas NAAT)	**Y**						**Y**	**Y**		**Y ***	**Y ***	**Y**	**Y**		**Y ***
Orange Screw Top Tube		Small swab for **ears, eyes bacterial culture** (and urethral for gonorrhoea culture)	Copan 481CE	Flexible snap-able	Liquid Amies Medium	* Use **green** BD tube for chlamydia & gonorrhoea NAAT	**Y**										**Y ***	**Y**		**Y ***	
MOLECULAR SWABS (+ STI URINE) – VIRAL and/or BACTERIAL (Throat swab molecular use white swab above)																					
Viral or Universal transport media tube (VTM) (UTM) colours Purple, Red, Green		**Viral testing- MUST** specify virus to test for (Molecular testing only)	**Standard** flocked swab	Rigid snap-able	Liquid medium, VTM or UTM	Skin and oral swabs (e.g. HSV, VZV, Mpox)		**Y**			**Y**			**Y**		**Y**	**Y**			
			Flexible flocked swab	Fine flexible snap-able **Use for naso-pharyngeal**	Liquid medium, VTM or UTM	Influenza/RSV/ Measles/Pertussis MUST be naso-pharyngeal swab, (nose &/or throat swab NOT suitable).		**Y**	**Y**					**Y**	**Y**		**Y**				
Green BD Screw Top Tube*		**Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea NAAT**, & genital sites **Trichomonas NAAT**	BD Swab collection kit	Rigid snap-able	Buffer	Recommended specimen: Female – vaginal or cervical swab Male – first catch urine				**Y**						**Y**	**Y**		**Y**	**Y**	**Y**
Yellow BD Screw Top Tube – First Catch Urine		**Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea, & Trichomonas NAAT**	BD Urine transport kit	Transfer pipette	Urine preservative					**Y**										**Y**	
Pink Screw Top Tube		**HPV Vaginal Screening swab**	HPV swab collection kit	Rigid snap-able	Dry	HPV vaginal primary screening **only**		**Y**											**Y**		

#STI Molecular Panel = Chlamydia/Gonorrhoea/Trichomonas NAAT = Nucleic acid amplification test (molecular) VTM = Viral Transport Medium UTM = Universal Transport Medium