Vaginal Swab Laboratory Testing Guide

Asymptomatic – no STI risk

No clinical reason for testing

No swabs

Example clinical details:

- Routine

Asymptomatic – STI risk

Clinical information of "STI screen" / "STI check"

Green BD CT/GC/TV molecular swab tube only



Tests performed:

- CT/NG/TV NAAT

Example clinical details:

- STI screen
- STI check
- UPSI
- New partner

Symptomatic – no STI risk

Provide clinical symptoms & reason for testing

White Swab only



Tests performed:

- Gram stain for BV, Yeast
- Culture (only if clinical details indicate)

Example clinical details:

- Discharge
- ?Thrush
- ?BV
- Post-partum infection
- Post-surgery

Symptomatic – STI risk

Provide clinical symptoms & indicate STI risk

White Swab &

Green BD CT/GC/TV molecular tube

Tests performed:

- Gram stain for BV, Yeast
- CT/NG/TV NAAT
- Culture (only if clinical details indicate)

Example clinical details:

- Discharge ?STI
- Pre TOP
- Post TOP infection
- Pelvic pain ?PID
- Sexual abuse / assault

CT = *Chlamydia trachomatis*; NG and GC = *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*; TV = *Trichomonas vaginalis*; NAAT = Nucleic Acid Amplification Test; STI = Sexually transmitted infection; BV = Bacterial vaginosis

References: https://sti.guidelines.org.nz/
https://bpac.org.nz/2019/chlamydia-gonorrhoea.aspx
https://bpac.org.nz/bpj/2013/april/how-to-guide-sexual-health.aspx

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