

## Self-collected vaginal swab specimens are preferred collection method for detection of Chlamydia/GC/Trichomonas

To: Clients of UR Medicine Labs

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When screening for infection with Chlamydia/N.gonorrhoeae/Trichomonas, self-collected vaginal swab specimens have been shown to be of equivalent quality compared to provider collected swab specimens. Furthermore, self-collected vaginal swab specimens provide greater sensitivity than urine specimens for detection of these organisms; vaginal swab specimens provide 90% sensitivity versus 75% sensitivity for urine specimens. As an added benefit, several studies have documented that ~90% of female patients prefer the ease of self-collected vaginal specimens over collection of urine specimens. Swab specimens are also less likely than leaky urine containers to be responsible for environmental contamination in the laboratory and for cross-contamination of patient specimens during testing, and have more relaxed transportation requirements.

We recommend that practices discontinue the collection and submission of urine specimens in favor of self-collected vaginal swab specimens when ordering tests for these infections.

Please contact UR Medicine Labs at 585-758-0510 for ordering Vaginal self-collect swabs.

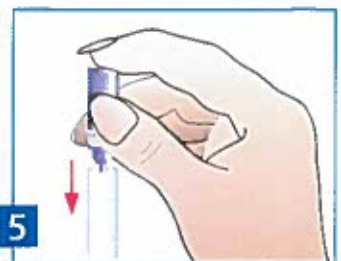
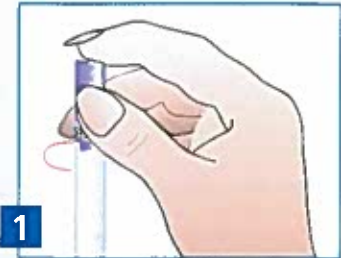
You may visit our test index at [testmenu.com/rochester](http://testmenu.com/rochester) for patient collection instructions.

# Vaginal Specimen Transport for the BD ProbeTec™ CT/GC Q<sup>x</sup> Amplified DNA Assays

## Instructions for Self-Collection of Vaginal Swabs

Please read all instructions before collecting specimens. If you have any questions about this procedure, please ask your doctor or nurse.

1. Wash hands with soap and water. Rinse and dry.
2. It is important to maintain a comfortable balance during the collection procedure.
3. Twist the cap to break the seal (Figure 1). Do not use if seal is broken or damaged. Pull the cap with attached swab off the tube. Do not touch the soft tip or lay the swab down. If you touch or drop the swab tip or the swab is laid down, discard the swab and request a new vaginal swab.
4. Hold the swab by the cap with one hand so the swab tip is pointing toward you (Figure 2).
5. With your other hand, gently spread the skin outside the vagina. Insert the tip of the swab into the vaginal opening (Figure 2.) Point the tip toward your lower back and relax your muscles.
6. Gently slide the swab no more than two inches into the vagina (Figure 3). If the swab does not slide easily, gently rotate the swab as you push. **If it is still difficult, do not attempt to continue.** Make sure the swab touches the walls of the vagina so that moisture is absorbed by the swab.
7. Rotate the swab for 10-15 seconds (Figure 4).
8. Withdraw the swab without touching the skin. Place the swab in the tube and cap securely (Figure 5).
9. After collection, wash hands with soap and water, rinse, and dry.
10. Return tube with swab as instructed.



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