

**GENITAL SPECIMEN:**

**Female:** Genital tract specimen are submitted primarily for detection of sexually transmitted pathogens. If infection is not caused by one of these pathogens, anaerobic bacteria may be involved. If anaerobic infection is suspected, transport the specimen in an anaerobic collection system.

**Male:** For urethral cultures, collect specimen at least 2 hours after the patient has urinated. Obtain specimen by inserting a thin urogenital swab 2 – 4 cm into the endourethra, gently rotate it, leave in place for 1 – 2 seconds, then withdraw it.

**COLLECTION CONSIDERATIONS FOR GENITAL CULTURES**

ORGANISM	RECOMMENDED SPECIMEN	TRANSPORT SYSTEM
<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>	Cervical, urethral, vaginal, anal (culture only)	Culturette, Martin-Lewis plate (culture) M4 transport (PCR) – send on ice, and transport to the Microbiology Laboratory immediately.
Bacterial	Prostatic fluid, cervical, vaginal	Culturette, or sterile container
<i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i>	Vaginal, prostatic fluid	Sterile container
Fungi	Anal, vaginal or cervical	Culturette or sterile container
Anaerobes	Epididymis aspirate, amniotic fluid, abscess fluid	Anaerobic transport
Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV)	Genital or perianal lesion	Viral or M4 transport
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>	Urine (male/female) Urethral (male), cervical, vulva (culture only)	Viral or M4 transport for culture M4 transport (PCR) – send on ice and transport to the Microbiology Laboratory immediately.
<i>Treponema pallidum</i>	Genital lesion (Note: secondary lesions of syphilis are most commonly found on mucous membranes and skin including palms of hands and soles of feet, but any body organ may be involved.)	Prepared slide in sterile container.

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<i>Ureoplasma urealyticum</i>	Urethral, epididymis or prostatic fluid.	Contact Laboratory for transport medium.