

# Memo

To: AML Reference Laboratory Clients

From: Allina Medical Laboratories, Reference Laboratory Services

Date: September 20, 2005

Re: GC & Chlamydia Probe Collection (Gen-Probe Aptima Unisex Collection Kit)

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AML has had to reject a large number of GC/Chlamydia specimens today due to improper specimen collection.

**Please Note:** Transport containers must contain one blue shaft swab for both male and female patients.

Containers with the large white swab will be rejected. The white swab is used to clean the cervical os and then should be discarded. This is an important step in order to obtain cells containing organisms.

## **Female Endocervical Swab Specimens:**

1. Remove excess mucus from cervical os and surrounding mucosa using cleaning swab (white shaft swab in package with red printing). **Discard the swab.**
2. Insert specimen collection swab (blue shaft swab in package with green printing) into endocervical canal.
3. Gently rotate swab clockwise for 10 to 30 seconds in endocervical canal to ensure adequate sampling.
4. Withdraw swab carefully; avoid any contact with vaginal mucosa.
5. Remove cap from swab specimen transport tube and immediately place specimen collection swab into specimen transport tube.
6. Carefully break swab shaft at scoreline; use care to avoid splashing contents.
7. Re-cap swab specimen transport tube tightly.