

Leeds Teaching Hospitals Microbiology Department: Correct Specimen Containers

Swab Type	Container Description	 DO Use For	 DON'T Use For
  TOP	Pink Top Copan Eswab	M,C & S investigations: Wounds Nose Eye Throat Rectal Vaginal	Chlamydia NAAT Gonorrhoea NAAT Trichomonas NAAT
  TOP	Orange Top Copan Eswab	M,C & S investigations: Ear Urogenital tract (GC culture only)	Chlamydia NAAT Gonorrhoea NAAT Trichomonas NAAT Viral PCR
  TOP	Green Top VTM Viral Swab (Virocult)	Molecular Virology and Bacteriology PCR only *please note these swabs contain antibiotics and must not be used for M,C & S investigations	Chlamydia NAAT Gonorrhoea NAAT Trichomonas NAAT M,C & S investigations Herpes simplex virus PCR Syphilis PCR
  LABEL	Orange Aptima Collection Device. Self-take Vaginal Swab	Chlamydia NAAT Gonorrhoea NAAT Trichomonas NAAT Herpes simplex virus PCR Syphilis PCR	M,C & S Investigations Viral PCR
  LABEL	White Aptima Collection Device Cervical/Urethral Swab	Chlamydia NAAT Gonorrhoea NAAT Trichomonas NAAT	M,C & S Investigations Viral PCR
  LABEL	Yellow Aptima Collection Device Urine	Chlamydia NAAT Gonorrhoea NAAT Trichomonas NAAT	M,C & S Investigations Viral PCR
 Note: Paediatric monovettes are also available (3.2ml)	Green monovette boric acid urine container (10ml) Note: Paediatric monovettes are also available (3.2ml)	Urine cultures and microscopy ?UTI *check compatibility for dipstick testing with manufacturers guide	Chlamydia NAAT Gonorrhoea NAAT Trichomonas NAAT Microalbumin Protein:Creatinine ratio Urine parasites
	30ml White Top Plain Universal Container	M,C & S investigations: Tissue Fluids Pus Biopsies Virology PCR tests Chlamydia NAAT (if Aptima urine collection device not available) Urine parasites	M,C & S investigations: Urine Sputum
	30ml Brown Top Faeces Container with Spoon	Faecal M, C & S ? C difficile Faecal parasites Calprotectin <i>Helicobacter pylori</i> Faecal elastase Viral Gastro-intestinal PCR investigations e.g. Norovirus	Other microbiology M,C & S investigations
	60ml Plain Sputum Pot	M,C & S investigations: Sputum AAFB / TB Culture (3x samples labelled 1,2,3)	Other microbiology M,C & S investigations

Note specimens in the wrong containers are likely to be rejected. This may be due to the additives used in the pots or the automated systems in use. If you require further guidance, please contact Quality Manager – Hannah Armitage hannah.armitage1@nhs.net