Women's Health Panel Collection Method Specifications



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COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS - Vaginal Swab Collection

The preferred specimen collection methods for testing vaginal microflora is a vaginal swab collecting as much visible exudate as possible.

- 1. Samples are collected using the DTPM MTM Flock Swab Collection Kit.
- 2. Using laboratory gloves, remove the swab from its plastic packaging. Avoid touching the swab applicator below the pink molded breakpoint as this could lead to contamination and incorrect test results.
- 3. Insert the flocked tip of the specimen swab approximately 2 inches (5 cm) into the vaginal opening.
- 4. Gently turn the swab and allow it to absorb the secretions. Collect as much visible exudate as possible.
- 5. Withdraw the swab carefully to avoid contamination.
- 6. Place swab(s) into the sterile vial containing DTPM MTM transporting medium.
- 7. Break the swab at the scored line on the shaft. Discard the shaft.
- 8. Recap the transport tube carefully to ensure that the cap seals tightly.
- 9. Label the vial with the patients first and last name, date of birth, the date and time the sample was collected, and the specimen type. Additional comments may also be added.
 - *Keep patient samples at room temperature. Do Not Freeze patient sample.
 - *Patient samples must be received at the laboratory within 72 hours of collection.

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Confirm that the information on the completed Infectious Diseases Test Requisition Form matches the swab container.
- 2. Place the swab container into the Bio-hazard Bag along with the Test Request Form
- 3. The specimen is now ready for shipment via FedEx or courier.