



# Swab guide

## General instructions

- Check expiry date of swab prior to use
- Essential labelling information:
  - Full name, date of birth, gender
  - Site, date and time of collection
- Ensure cap is replaced firmly
- Swabs should not be refrigerated
- Chlamydia PCR and/or gonorrhoea PCR:
  - First-void urine can be used to test for chlamydia and gonorrhoea for both males and females
- Gonorrhoea culture (M/C/S):
  - Collect penile swab or cervical swab

## Microbiology swabs (bacterial culture, bacterial/viral PCR) – One swab for M/C/S & PCR requests

Insert swab shaft into tube, snap shaft at marked line and recap tube

### Sigma Transwab® (standard shaft, orange top)

- Wound/lesion (M/C/S, herpes PCR)
- Female genital (Chlamydia/gonorrhoea & M/C/S)
- Respiratory, e.g. mouth, ear, eye (M/C/S, respiratory viral, herpes PCR)
- NOT for cervical screening for HPV



### Sigma Transwab® (thin shaft, blue top)

- Nasopharyngeal (M/C/S, respiratory viral PCR, pertussis PCR, Mycoplasma pneumoniae PCR)
- Male urethral (Chlamydia/gonorrhoea & M/C/S)



## Special collections

### Flocked swab (red top)

- Patient self-collect for HPV PCR (must be supervised by clinician)
- Buccal swab for genetic tests



### cobas® swab for chlamydia/gonorrhoea PCR (yellow top)

- Specifically for cobas CT/NG PCR assay
- Cannot be used for other PCR collections
- Cotton swab to clear excess cervical mucus
  - this swab must be discarded
- Flocked swab for specimen collection



### ThinPrep®

- +/- PCR can be used for chlamydia, gonorrhoea and HPV if swab is not supplied
- Use a separate swab to remove cervical mucous, and discard
- Use the brush to collect the cervical sample and briskly rinse into the ThinPrep solution

