Submission Requirements

1. SHL performs Chlamydia and Gonorrhea screening using the Aptima Combo 2 Assay. The assay may be used to test the following specimen types: clinician-collected endocervical, vaginal and male urethral swab specimens; patient-collected vaginal swab specimens; and female and male urine specimens. This test method has also been validated for pharyngeal and rectal swabs at SHL.

2. Label container with patient's name or unique identifier and the date of collection. UNLABELED SPECIMENS WILL NOT BE TESTED.

Test Request Form

1. If participating in the Community Based Screening Services (CBSS) program, complete a Chlamydia trachomatis/Neisseria gonorrhoeae Test Request Form.

2. For non-CBSS (fee for service) testing, complete the Viral and Bacterial PCR and DFA Test Request Form and select Chlamydia trachomatis/Neisseria gonorrhoeae under TEST(s) REQUESTED.

3. Test Request Forms are available online at: http://www.shl.uiowa.edu/testmenu/formgenerator.xml.

4. Testing is dependent upon complete and accurate information; therefore, results may be delayed if information is not provided. Be sure to include:
   a. All patient identifiers
   b. Specimen type
   c. Date of specimen collection
   d. Test requested (select all that apply)

Specimen Collection and Handling

Female Endocervical Specimen Collection

1. Remove excess mucus from cervical os and surrounding mucosa using cleaning swab (white shafted swab in packaging with red printing). Discard this swab.

2. Insert specimen collection swab (blue shafted swab in package with green printing) into the endocervical canal.

3. Gently rotate swab clockwise for 10 to 30 seconds in endocervical canal to ensure adequate sampling.

4. Withdraw the 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 score line; use care to avoid splashing contents.

7. Re-cap swab specimen transport tube tightly.

Male Urethra Swab Collection

Client should not have urinated for at least 1 hour prior to specimen collection.

1. Insert specimen collection swab (blue shafted swab in package with green printing) 2 to 4 cm into the urethra.

2. Gently rotate the swab clockwise for 2 to 3 seconds in urethra to ensure adequate sampling.

3. Withdraw the swab carefully.

4. Remove cap from swab specimen transport tube and immediately place specimen collection swab into specimen transport tube.

5. Carefully break swab shaft at score line; use care to avoid splashing contents.

6. Re-cap swab specimen transport tube tightly.
Specimen Collection and Handling, continued

Urine Specimen Collection (Male or Female)
Client should not have urinated for at least 1 hour prior to specimen collection

1. Direct client to provide first-catch urine (approximately 20 to 30 ml of initial urine stream) into urine collection cup, free from any preservatives. Collection of larger volumes may result in specimen dilution that may reduce test sensitivity. Female clients should not cleanse labia area prior to providing specimen.

2. Remove cap from urine specimen transport tube, and transfer 2 ml of urine into urine specimen transport tube using disposable pipette provided. The correct volume has been added when fluid level is between black fill lines on urine specimen transport tube label.

3. Re-cap urine specimen transport tube tightly.

Vaginal Specimen Collection (Non-pregnant women 16 years of age and older)
Specimen must be collected in a clinical setting. The specimen may be clinician or client (self) collected. Self-collected vaginal specimens are an option for screening asymptomatic women. The following instructions are for self-collected swabs. Clients must read the Patient Collection Instructions before providing them with a collection kit. For clinician-collected specimens, the vaginal specimen should be collected before inserting a speculum if an exam is to occur.

1. Wash hands before starting.

2. Partially peel open swab package. Do not touch soft tip or lay swab down. If soft tip is touched, swab is laid down, or swab is dropped, request a new APTIMA Vaginal Swab Specimen Collection Kit.

3. Remove swab.

4. Hold swab by placing thumb and forefinger in the middle of the swab shaft.

5. Carefully insert swab into the inside opening of the vagina, about two inches and gently rotate swab for 10 to 30 seconds. Make sure the swab touches the walls of the vagina so that moisture is absorbed by the swab.

6. Withdraw the swab without touching skin.

7. While holding swab in the same hand, unscrew the tube cap. Do not spill tube contents. If tube contents spill, request a new collection kit.

8. Immediately place swab into the transport tube so the tip of the swab is visible below the tube label. Carefully break swab shaft at the indicated black line against the top side of the tube.

9. Re-cap swab specimen transport tube tightly.

Rectal Swabs

1. Using the Unisex Swab, insert specimen collection swab (blue shaft swab in package with green printing) into the rectum approximately 4-6 cm and rotate against rectal wall several times.

2. Withdraw the swab carefully; avoid fecal contamination and in case of gross contamination discard the swab and recollect.

3. Remove cap from swab specimen transport tube and immediately place specimen collection swab into specimen transport tube.

4. Carefully break swab shaft at score line; use care to avoid splashing contents.

5. Re-cap swab specimen transport tube tightly.
Specimen Collection and Handling, continued

Pharyngeal Swabs

1. Using a tongue depressor if necessary and the Unisex Swab, insert specimen collection swab (blue shaft swab in package with green printing) into the pharynx and rotate against any inflammation and around the tonsillar area.
2. Have the patient say “ah” for access to the pharynx and avoid touching the tongue, teeth, cheeks, etc. with the swab.
3. Withdraw the swab carefully, again avoiding touching anything in the oral cavity.

Shipping Instructions

1. Include completed Test Request Form in the side pocket of the biohazard bag.
2. Place specimen and absorbent material inside of biohazard bag.
3. Send the specimen at AMBIENT TEMPERATURE.
4. Ship multiple specimens in packaging compliant with USPS or IATA regulations

Contact Information

1. For test collection kits, go online to http://www.shl.uiowa.edu/kitsquotesforms, or call (319) 335-4500
2. For Chlamydia/Gonorrhea questions: (319) 335-4279