





## When to Investigate

- If under 25 years of age, **ALWAYS offer an annual Chlamydia screen** (NB LHT lab will do CT/GC automatically unless specified)
- Consider Nucleic Acid Amplification tests (NAATs) for Chlamydia (CT +/- Gonorrhoea for women if:
  - < 25 years old
  - symptoms indicative of upper reproductive tract infection
- a new sexual partner in the last 12 months
- more than one sexual partner in the last 12 months
- Women of reproductive age with vaginal discharge should have a high vaginal swab (HVS) cultured if:
  - postnatal or post miscarriage
  - pre or post gynaecological surgery
  - recurrent ( $\geq 4$  cases/year)
  - within 3 weeks of intrauterine contraceptive insertion
  - vaginitis without discharge
  - pre or post termination of pregnancy
  - previous treatment failed
- Women with signs and symptoms compatible with Gonorrhoea or a positive GC NAAT results, should have an **Endo-cervical swab & culture** (and CT/GC NAAT if not done already) to test for susceptibility and identify resistant strains of Gonorrhoea.
- TV culture now replaced by more sensitive TV NAAT (same plastic swab as CT/GC NAAT but must add request) for symptomatic women where TV suspected (see over) or TV contacts/ TV suggested on cytology.
- **Consider referral to GUM for further investigation if:**
  - the diagnosis is in doubt
  - GC or TV is suspected
  - Contacts/ Partner Notification (cannot be achieved in primary care setting)
  - symptoms persist
  - positive GC or TV NAAT result

## How to Sample

- **Clinical details:** Submitted samples should include the following clinical information to guide laboratory testing: *nature of the vaginal discharge, any risk or suspicion of sexually transmitted disease, and associated symptoms.*
- **HVS for bacterial culture:** Use Eswab. After introduction of speculum, roll swab anywhere on vaginal wall to obtain discharge.
- **Endocervical swab for GC culture:** Use Eswab. Clean the cervical os with a large sterile swab and discard. Insert a new swab into the endocervix and rotate 360 degrees. Swab the external os 360 degrees if os stenosed.
- **NAAT for CT/ GC (+/- TV if symptoms suggest):**

Submit a self-taken vaginal swab or endocervical swab using kit with plastic (not wooden) shafted swab provided by local lab (WSbest test unless want to examine to exclude other cause/ take endocervical culture). **Do NOT put in charcoal medium.**

## Transport of culture swabs to the lab

- Transport samples to the laboratory as soon as possible.
- Refrigerate swabs at 4°C if NOT immediately sent to the laboratory.
- Swabs sent for culture of GC on E-swabs MUST be received and processed by the laboratory within 24 hours
- Other swabs MUST be received and processed by the laboratory within 48 hours