

## VAGINAL SWAB SPECIMEN – CLINICIAN INSTRUCTED SELF-COLLECTION

**NOTE:** Ensure the patient has read and understood the following self-collection instructions.

### Preparing For Sample Collection:

- Undress to expose the vaginal area.
- Put yourself in a comfortable position.
- Remove the collection tube and one swab from the collection kit.
- Discard the second swab

### How To Self-Collect a vaginal swab sample:

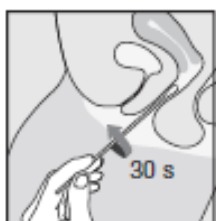
#### Handling Precautions

The collection tube media can cause irritation if contacted with skin or other body parts. Handle the collection tube carefully.

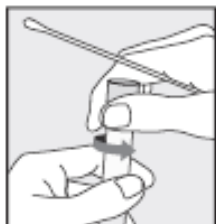
- **Do NOT** pre-wet collection swab with the collection media or any other liquid before obtaining the vaginal sample.
- Use care to avoid splashing contents of the tube. If the contents of the tube are spilled on your skin, wash the affected area with soap and water. If the contents of the tube splash into your eyes, flush them with water immediately. Always notify your healthcare provider. **NOTE: In case the contents of the tube are accidentally spilled, do not attempt to clean up. Immediately notify your healthcare provider for appropriate action.**



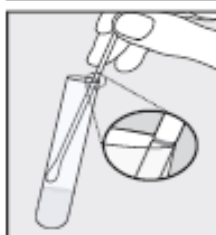
**1. POSITION:** Hold the swab in one hand and with the other hand separate the folds of skin around the vaginal opening (labia).



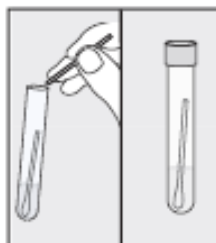
**2. COLLECT:** Insert the swab about 5 cm (2 inches) into the vaginal opening. Gently turn the swab for about 30 seconds while rubbing the swab against the wall of the vagina. Remove the swab carefully. Do not touch the swab to any surface before placing it into the collection tube.



**3. OPEN TUBE:** While holding the swab in the same hand remove the cap from the tube as shown in the diagram.



**4. ALIGN:** Lower the swab into the tube until the visible dark line on the swab shaft is lined up with the tube rim. The tip of the swab should be just above the liquid in the tube.



**5. BREAK:** Carefully lean the swab against the tube rim to break the swab shaft at the dark line; discard the top portion of the swab.

**6. CLOSE:** Tightly close the **cobas**<sup>®</sup> PCR Media tube. Return the sample to your healthcare provider as instructed.

### SPECIMEN TRANSPORT AND STORAGE

Following specimen collection, transport and store the **cobas**<sup>®</sup> PCR Media tube containing the collection swab at 2°C to 30°C.

The collected endocervical swab specimen is stable at 2°C to 30°C for up to 12 months. The collected vaginal swab specimen is stable at 2°C to 30°C for up to 90 days.

Transportation of collected specimens must comply with all applicable regulations for the transport of etiologic agents<sup>3</sup>.

### REFERENCES

1. Richmond, J.Y. and McKinney, R.W. eds. 1999. *Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories*. HHS Publication Number (CDC) 93-8395.
2. Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI). *Protection of Laboratory Workers from Occupationally Acquired Infections*. Approved Guideline-Third Edition. CLSI Document M29-A3 Wayne, PA:CLSI, 2005.
3. International Air Transport Association. *Dangerous Goods Regulations*, 50<sup>th</sup> Edition. 2009.