

Laboratory News

VOL. 49, NO. 1 January 8, 2026

Laboratory Update: STI Testing Collection Changes

Dr. Sophie Arbefeville, Dr. Taylor Wahlig, Bronnyn Bulgrin

Discontinuation of Aptima Unisex Swab

Effective immediately, Sanford - Marshfield Clinic Region Molecular Microbiology Laboratory will no longer carry or accept the Aptima Unisex Swab for STI testing.

This change reflects:

- Decreased utilization of the unisex swab
- Vendor transition to expanded testing using Aptima Multitest Swab

Please note:

- *If collecting from a male, unisex swabs are no longer available for urethral testing. Collect a urine sample for testing.*
- *If you have Unisex swabs in your inventory, please discard. (They expired 12/31/2025)*

Tests Impacted:

- **CHGC:** Chlamydia/GC, Nucleic Acid Method (NAM)
- **CH-NAM:** Chlamydia Trachomatis, Nucleic Acid Method (NAM)
- **GC-NAM:** Neisseria Gonorrhoeae, Nucleic Acid Method (NAM)
- **TRICNAM:** Trichomonas vaginalis, Nucleic Acid Method (NAM)



Current Acceptable Collection Options

Aptima Urine Specimen Transport (Yellow Label Tube)

- Collect 20–30 mL of first-catch urine (initial stream)
- Patient should not urinate for at least 1 hour prior to collection
- Transfer 2 mL of urine into Aptima urine specimen tube
- Must transfer urine to Aptima tube within 24 hours of collection



Aptima Multitest Swab

- Approved for cervical, vaginal, rectal, and throat specimen collection



PreservCyt ThinPrep Solution Vial

(Refer to Cytology guidelines for PAP Liquid Prep collection requirements)

- PreservCyt Liquid Pap specimens must be aliquoted into an Aptima tube within 30 days of collection

Questions

For questions, please contact Dr. Taylor Wahlig or Dr. Sophie Arbefeville in the Microbiology laboratory at 715-221-6141.