ALBANY MED Health System
SARATOGA HOSPITAL

To: Physicians and Providers of Saratoga Hospital

From: Richard Vandell, MS, MT (ASCP) SC, SH; Administrative Director, Laboratory Service

Steve Verdini, DO; Medical Director Wilton Medical Arts Laboratory

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Date: Oct. 7, 2026

Subject: Insourcing of Combined Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Nucleic Acid Test

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Beginning October 13, 2026, Saratoga Hospital Laboratory Service will transition the combined Chlamydia and Gonorrhea PCR test for vaginal, endocervical and urine specimens from LabCorp to Glens Falls Hospital. Turnaround time will be the same- about 2-3 days.

Current Offering		New Offering		Implementation Date
Procedure Name	Procedure Code	Procedure Name	Procedure Code	October 13,2026
Chlamydia/GC Amplification	LAB123300370	Chlamydia & GC DNA/NAA-by PCR	LAB91119	

For women, a vaginal swab is the recommended sample type and first catch urine is recommended for men. Here are changes to collection containers:

Current Acceptable Containers		New Acceptable Containers	
Vaginal	Aptima Unisex Swab	Vaginal	Cobas PCR Media Dual Swab kit
	Aptima Multitest Swab	Endocervical	
Endocervical	Aptima Unisex Swab	Urine, Male and Female	Cobas PCR Media tube
	Aptima Multitest Swab		
Urine	Aptima Urine Kit		

A supply of Cobas collection containers have been delivered to sites who commonly order these tests. The Saratoga Hospital Laboratory will be responsible for distribution of new supplies to offsites. Please submit a supply ordering form for any additional supplies to the Laboratory Support at 518-580-2497.

Guidance for new acceptable containers and an updated supply order form are attached in the following pages.

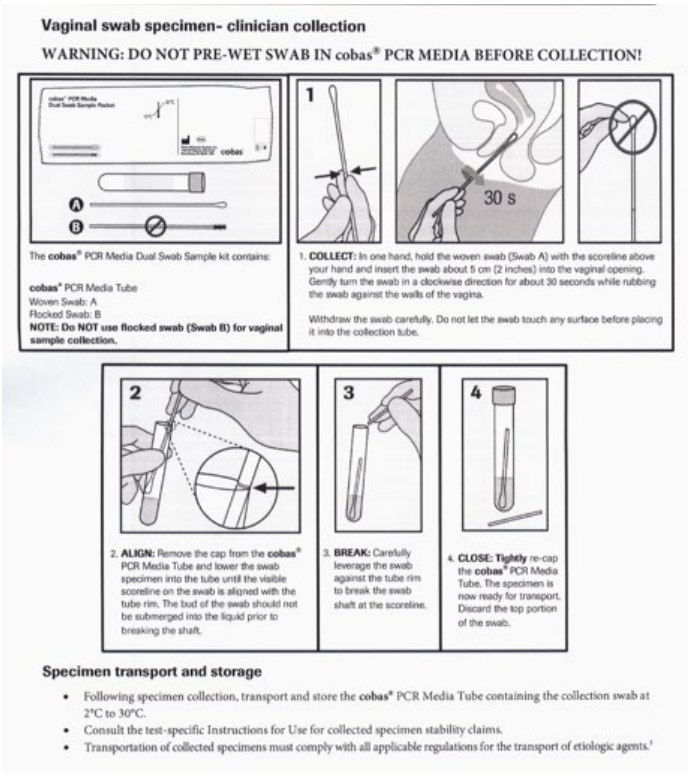
Chlamydia and Gonorrhea swab testing of conjunctival, rectal, pharyngeal, and male urethral sources will continue to go to LabCorp. Use established location-specific order in Epic listed on the following pages

The purpose of this change is to reduce dependence on outside reference laboratories.

For questions or concerns about this change, please contact Shayna Blanchette MBA- HCM, DLM (ASCP); Associate Director Laboratory Administration at 518-583-8743.

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Vaginal Collection:



Vaginal swab specimen- clinician collection

WARNING: DO NOT PRE-WET SWAB IN cobas® PCR MEDIA BEFORE COLLECTION!

The **cobas®** PCR Media Dual Swab Sample kit contains:

cobas® PCR Media Tube
Woven Swab: A
Flocked Swab: B
NOTE: Do NOT use flocked swab (Swab B) for vaginal sample collection.

1. **COLLECT:** In one hand, hold the woven swab (Swab A) with the scoreline above your hand and insert the swab about 5 cm (2 inches) into the vaginal opening. Gently turn the swab in a clockwise direction for about 30 seconds while rubbing the swab against the walls of the vagina.

   Withdraw the swab carefully. Do not let the swab touch any surface before placing it into the collection tube.

2. **ALIGN:** Remove the cap from the **cobas®** PCR Media Tube and lower the swab specimen into the tube until the visible scoreline on the swab is aligned with the tube rim. The bud of the swab should not be submerged into the liquid prior to breaking the shaft.

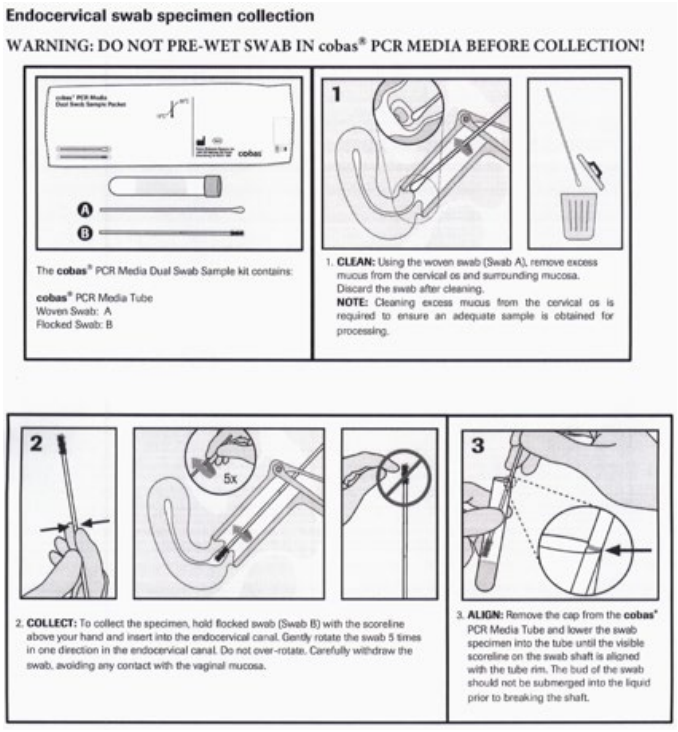
3. **BREAK:** Carefully leverage the swab against the tube rim to break the swab shaft at the scoreline.

4. **CLOSE: Tightly** re-cap the **cobas®** PCR Media Tube. The specimen is now ready for transport. Discard the top portion of the swab.

Specimen transport and storage

- Following specimen collection, transport and store the **cobas®** PCR Media Tube containing the collection swab at 2°C to 30°C.
- Consult the test-specific Instructions for Use for collected specimen stability claims.
- Transportation of collected specimens must comply with all applicable regulations for the transport of etiologic agents.[3]

Endocervical:



Endocervical swab specimen collection

WARNING: DO NOT PRE-WET SWAB IN cobas® PCR MEDIA BEFORE COLLECTION!

The **cobas®** PCR Media Dual Swab Sample kit contains:

cobas® PCR Media Tube
Woven Swab: A
Flocked Swab: B

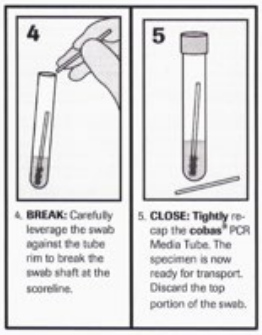
1. **CLEAN:** Using the woven swab (Swab A), remove excess mucus from the cervical os and surrounding mucosa. Discard the swab after cleaning.
   NOTE: Cleaning excess mucus from the cervical os is required to ensure an adequate sample is obtained for processing.

2. **COLLECT:** To collect the specimen, hold flocked swab (Swab B) with the scoreline above your hand and insert into the endocervical canal. Gently rotate the swab 5 times in one direction in the endocervical canal. Do not over-rotate. Carefully withdraw the swab, avoiding any contact with the vaginal mucosa.

3. **ALIGN:** Remove the cap from the **cobas®** PCR Media Tube and lower the swab specimen into the tube until the visible scoreline on the swab shaft is aligned with the tube rim. The bud of the swab should not be submerged into the liquid prior to breaking the shaft.

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Endocervical cont.



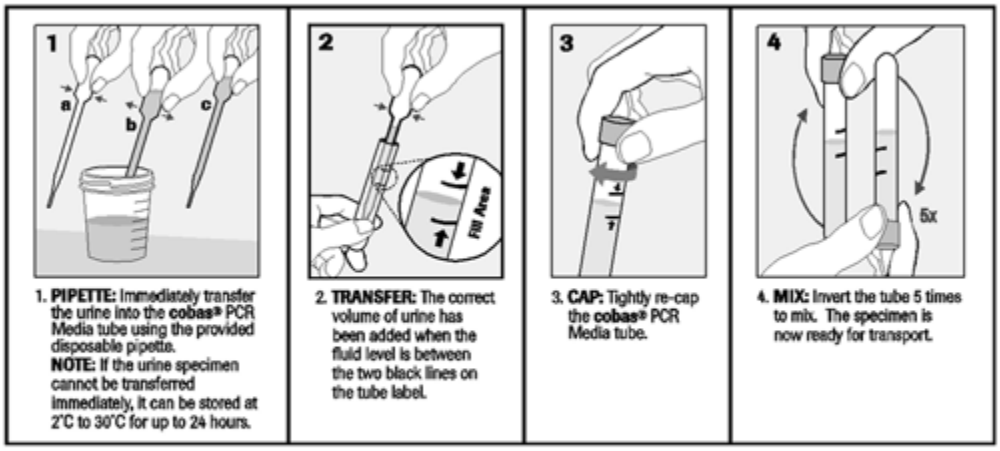
Specimen transport and storage

- Following specimen collection, transport and store the **cobas**® PCR Media Tube containing the collection swab at 2°C to 30°C.
- Consult the test-specific Instructions for Use for collected specimen stability claims.
- Transportation of collected specimens must comply with all applicable regulations for the transport of etiologic agents.[3]

Urine Collection:

SPECIMEN COLLECTION

COLLECT: Prior to sampling, the patient should not have urinated for at least one hour. Given that collection of larger volumes of urine may reduce test sensitivity, please direct patient to provide first-catch urine (approximately 10 to 50 mL of the initial urine stream) into a urine collection cup (not provided).



SPECIMEN TRANSPORT AND STORAGE

Urine specimens must be transferred into the **cobas**® PCR Media tube (stabilized) immediately. If specimens cannot be transferred immediately, they can be stored at 2°C to 30°C for up to 24 hours.

Transport and store the **cobas**® PCR Media tube containing the stabilized urine specimen at 2°C to 30°C.

Consult the test-specific Instructions for Use for collected specimen stability claims.

Transportation of collected specimens must comply with all applicable regulations for the transport of etiologic agents[3].

Source-Specific Tests that will continue to go to LabCorp:

Source	LabCorp Test Name in Epic	Epic Order #	LabCorp #
Male Urethral Swab	Chlamydia/GC Amplification - LabCorp	LAB123300370	183194
Anorectal Swab	Ct/GC NAA, Rectal - LabCorp	LAB123300375	188672
Oropharyngeal Swab	Ct/GC NAA, Pharyngeal - LabCorp	LAB123300377	188698
Conjunctival Swab	Chlamydia, Conjunctiva NAA-LabCorp	LAB123300998	188080

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Ordering Practice:

To be filled from existing lab supplies.

Item Name	Unit	Requested Amount	Filled Date	Filled by Initials
21 Gauge Eclipse Needles	Box			
22 Gauge Eclipse Needles	Box			
23 Gauge Butterfly	Box			
24 Hour Urine Container- 30 mL 30% Glacial Acetic Acid	Each			
24 Hour Urine Container- 30 mL 6N HCL	Each			
24 Hour Urine Container- Boric Acid	Each			
24 Hour Urine Container- No Additive	Each			
Aptima, Swab	Each			
Cobas, Urine	Each			
Cobas, Dual Swab	Each			
Biohazard Bag - Large Batch Bag	Each			
Blood Culture Hubs	Each			
Blood Culture, Aerobic	Each			
Blood Culture, Anaerobic	Each			
Blood Culture, Pediatric	Each			
E-Swab (for aerobic and/or anaerobic)	Each			
E-Swab with Mini-Tip Swab	Each			
Freezer Packs	Each			
Hat Collection	Each			
MRSA PCR Swab	Each			
Needle Adaptors	Pack			
Ova & Parasite Containers	Box or Each			
Pour Off Tubes	Each			
Requisition, Outpatient Lab	Pack			
Specimen Bags	Pack			
Stool Culture, WBC (Cary-Blair Media)	Box or Each			
Tourniquets	Pack			
Vacutainer Tubes, 3.0 mL Yellow Top (SST)	Pack			
Vacutainer Tubes, 3.0 mL Lav Top	Pack			
Vacutainer Tubes, 3.5 mL Blue Top (coag)	Pack			
Vacutainer Tubes, 4.0 mL Grey Top	Each			
Vacutainer Tubes, 5.0 mL Green Yel Top (Lith Hep)	Pack			