

Collecting and Handling Specimens for *N. gonorrhea* Culture and AST at NPHL

Checklist 3/15/2023

Preparations - Notification

- ☐ Communicate with facility IP, ICAP and Local Health Department for approval to test
- ☐ Order supplies from local health department or NPHL: NPHL supply orders
- ☐ Register and set up NULirt account. NULirt sign-up
- ☐ Practice entering a patient in NULirt, using **GC Screen, Test** as name. NULirt order entry
- ☐ Be proactive, call NPHL Client Services [REDACTED], make NPHL courier arrangements for Category B. NPHL couriers are not available to all rural areas and FedEx shipments can be arranged ahead of time by contacting NPHL at [REDACTED].

PPE Required

- ☐ Maintain proper infection control when collecting specimens

Supplies Needed

- ☐ Eswab collection system, **or**
- ☐ Culture swab and transport media: JEMBEC *N. gonorrhea* culture transport system
- ☐ Patient Label with Last, then first name and DOB, if possible.
- ☐ One small biohazard bag per specimen collected
- ☐ Larger bag to hold all smaller bags
- ☐ Category B UN3373 Shipping box with inner Styrofoam cooler (provided by NPHL)
- ☐ Category B Shipping Paperwork

Specimen collection

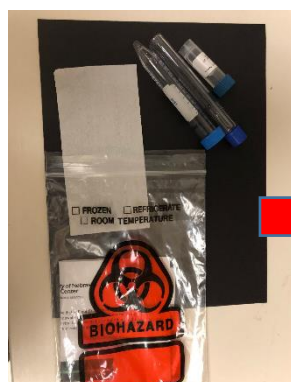
- ☐ Use standard culture collection technique to swab the patient source of infection
- ☐ If using an Eswab, place the swab in the specimen tube with the transport media and tighten the lid.
 - ☐ Label specimen container with patient full name, DOB, time and date of collection, source and collector initials
 - ☐ Confirm specimen label matches the patient's ID band or badge
- ☐ If using the JEMBEC® transport system, roll swab directly on the agar in a large "Z" to provide adequate exposure of swab to the medium for transfer of organisms
 - ☐ With sterile forceps, remove a CO2-generating tablet from its foil wrapper and place it in the specially designed well in the plate. Tape the plate shut
 - ☐ Label specimen container with patient full name, DOB, time and date of collection, source and collector initials
 - ☐ Confirm specimen label matches the patient's ID band or badge
 - ☐ Place inoculated plates in the polyethylene bag provided (one plate per bag). **DO NOT ADD WATER TO THE TABLET**
 - ☐ Seal the bag by pressing down on the "zipper" at the end of the bag with fingers and slide along to the opposite end. Be sure that the bag is sealed completely
- ☐ Place ONE specimen into small biohazard bag (with adsorbent) and seal
- ☐ Place **all** small bags into one or more larger bags to double bag
- ☐ Store specimen at room temperature after collection.
- ☐ Order patient test (GC Screen) into NULirt, use [REDACTED], if facility does not have ordering physician.
- ☐ Place larger bags into appropriate Category B UN3373 insulated box (cardboard box with Styrofoam)
- ☐ Close Styrofoam lid.
- ☐ Print out NULirt batch list. Place between Styrofoam cooler and box lid.

- ❑ Close box lid and seal with shipping tape. NEVER SHIP IN STYROFOAM ONLY
- ❑ Print out an NPHL Category B shipping paper at http://nphl.org/documents/Ground_Shipping_Paper_CatB_Template.pdf
- ❑ Confirm that package is being shipped to: [REDACTED]
- ❑ Complete all boxes and sign bottom of Category B Shipping paper. Tape to top of box
- ❑ Inform courier that specimens are ready to pick up and transport if needed.

Packing, Shipping and Transport to NPHL

Packaging, shipping, and transport of specimens to NPHL must follow shipping regulations for UN 3373 Biological Substance, Category B.

- For specimens going to NPHL, call [REDACTED]. If courier cannot be made within same day of collection or if other problems occur, call [REDACTED]
- Specimens must be triple packaged and shipped in Category B insulated box.
- Never ship Styrofoam only



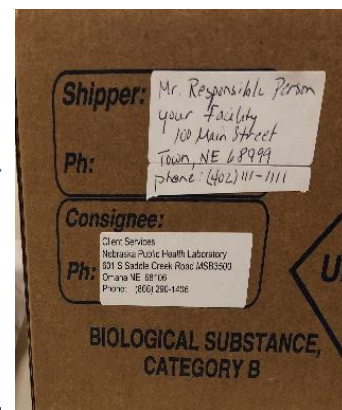
Place labeled specimen in small bag with adsorbent.



Place all small bags in one of these larger bags



Place specimens upright in box, support with bubble-wrap to prevent shifting. Add frozen gel-pak, close styrofoam lid, place batch list between, tape box lid closed



Label box or "Cat B Shipping Paper" with complete address including phone number for both shipper and recipient

NPHL provides proper insulated shipping boxes pre-labeled "Category B Biological Substances" with 24hr notification.



Only if necessary, create a box with proper Category B labels

Find corrugated cardboard box. Examples of boxes which can be used to ship CoVID:



Use box with “Edge Crush Test” greater than 30lbs/in

Cut out Category B label, place on corrugated cardboard box (crush test greater than 30lbs/in) on same side as shipper and recipient address. Place lab order/batch list inside box and place shipping papers on the top of box.