



# Swab guide

## General instructions

- Check expiry date of swab prior to use
- Essential labelling information:
  - Full name and date of birth
  - Specimen site
  - Date and time of collection
- Ensure cap is replaced firmly
- Swabs should not be refrigerated
- PCR requests – one swab per panel

## Microbiology swabs (bacterial culture, bacterial/viral PCR)

Insert swab shaft into tube, snap shaft at marked line and recap tube

### Sigma Transwab® (standard shaft, orange top)

#### Sampling any site, including genital

- Bacterial culture (aerobic and anaerobic)
- All PCR (bacterial and viral)
- Multi-resistant organisms (e.g. MRSA)
- NOT for cervical screening for HPV



### Sigma Transwab® (thin shaft, blue top)

#### Nasopharyngeal or nasal collections only

- Pertussis and/or respiratory virus PCR



## Cervical screening

### ThinPrep® Vial

- HPV for Cervical Screening
- +/- PCR for Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea
- DO NOT snap the head off the brush into the vial



## Special collections

### cobas® swab for chlamydia/gonorrhoea PCR (yellow top)

- Specifically for cobas CT/NG PCR assay
- Cannot be used for other PCR collections



### Flocked swab (red top)

- Patient self-collect for HPV PCR (must meet strict requirements to be eligible for self-collect. See website for more information)
- Buccal swab for genetic tests

