

J-180 Vaginal or Urethral Discharge Collection

Purpose

Detect pathogenic microorganisms in vaginal or urethral discharge.

Applies To

Registered Nurses

Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses

Other (*Identify*): _____

Equipment/Supplies

- Sterile culture tube with swab.
- One pair of disposable gloves.
- Paper drape, sheet, and blanket.
- Penlight or bedside lamp, if needed.

Procedure

1. Wash hands. Refer to Hand Washing procedure.
2. Provide privacy for the client and explain the procedure.
3. Assist the client into the proper position and drape:
 - a. Female: Have the client lay on her back. Drape sheet over genitalia and each leg.
 - b. Male: Have the client sit or lie on his back. Drape sheet over genitalia and across lower trunk.
4. Don clean gloves.
5. Use lamp or penlight to increase lighting.
6. Open tube with swab in dominant hand.
7. Instruct the client to take slow, deep breaths.

Obtain Female Specimen:

- a. Vaginal:
 - Using nondominant hand, separate labia to expose vaginal opening.
 - Swab exposed discharge. Do not touch skin or mucosa. If there is no visible discharge, insert swab into vagina 1/2 to 1 inch. Rotate swab and remove. See figure - for instructions for handling specimen.

- b. Urethral:
 - Expose urethral meatus by gently pulling labia minora up and back with nondominant hand.
 - Swab exposed discharge at tip of meatus. Do not touch labia.

Obtain Male Specimen:

- a. Using nondominant hand, hold penis near the tip. Retract foreskin if the client is not circumcised.
 - b. Swab area of discharge at tip of penis.
 - c. Insert swab into inner meatus (1/2 inch). Rotate and remove.
 - d. Return foreskin to natural position, if applicable.
2. Place swab in culture tube and secure top.
 3. Remove gloves and discard waste as outlined in the Agency Waste Disposal Policy.
 4. Wash hands. Refer to Hand Washing procedure.
 5. Assist client to a comfortable position.
 6. Place labeled specimen in biohazard bag and attach lab request. Deliver to lab.

Documentation Guidelines

Document in clinical record:

1. Specimen collection type, date, and time.
2. Appearance of vaginal orifice of urinary meatus and discharge characteristics.
3. The client’s tolerance of the procedure.

Related Procedures

None

Policy History

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