

Home Sampling kit

Female

Information for patients

This home sampling kit is for you to take samples (swabs) for testing for sexually transmitted infections called Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea. These are infections passed on from one person to another during sex. You can have these infections without symptoms. They are easily cured with antibiotics. For more information see our website:

<https://www.lothiansexualhealth.scot/>

You have been sent this kit for the following reasons:

- You have spoken to one of our team who have advised you to be tested for these infections
- You have ordered a testing kit online
- You have recently been treated for an infection and we want to repeat the tests to make sure the infection has gone.

We suggest that you return the kit within 48 hours of receiving it, unless you have been told to wait before taking the tests. You can do the tests any time of the day. Eating, passing urine or having sex before taking the swabs will not affect the results.

What is in my kit?

Please find enclosed all the items required to take your samples. Read these instructions before taking your samples. The picture below shows all the items that may be in your kit and what they are called. You may not have all the items shown as this kit has been personalised to meet your needs.



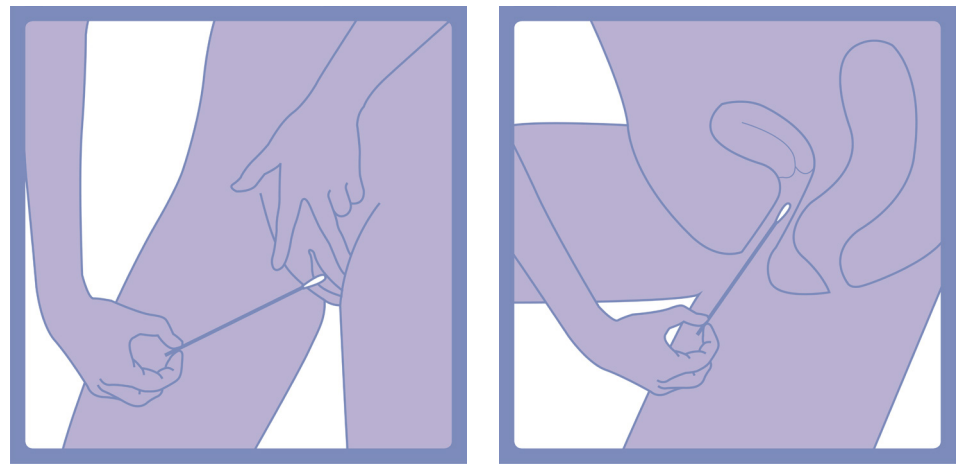
Before you start

1. Check the labels on the containers to see what samples you should take from each site
2. Read the instructions before starting to take your samples
3. Be careful not to spill the liquid in the tubes, if one does spill, please contact **0131 536 1070** for a replacement
4. Make sure the lids are put back on securely before packing the samples.

Instructions to take your samples

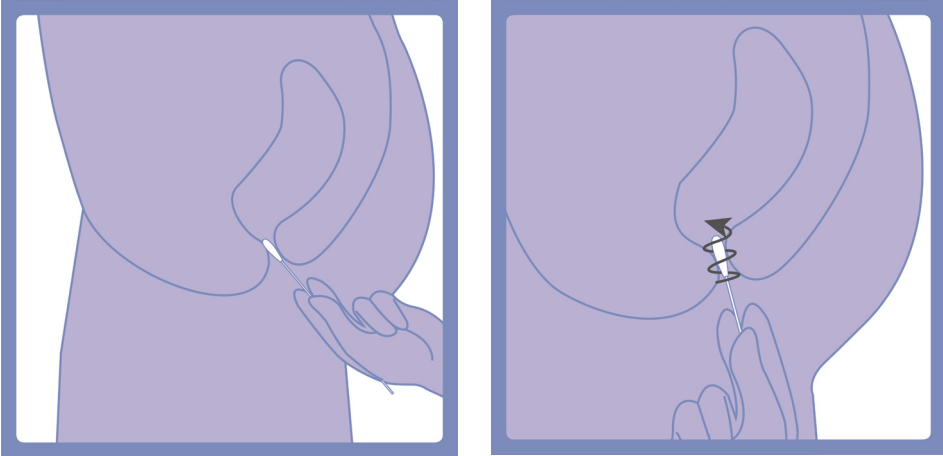
How to take your vaginal swab

1. Please wash your hands before and after taking the test
2. Remove the swab from the paper packaging. Insert the cotton tip into the vaginal opening
3. Circle the swab around in your vagina so you can feel it touching the walls of your vagina. Do this around 6 times (this will feel odd but not sore)
4. Take the lid off the tube being careful not to spill the liquid inside
5. Remove the swab from your vagina
6. Put the cotton end of the swab into the tube
7. Snap off the shaft of the plastic swab at the notch
8. Screw the lid back onto the container tightly to avoid any leakage.



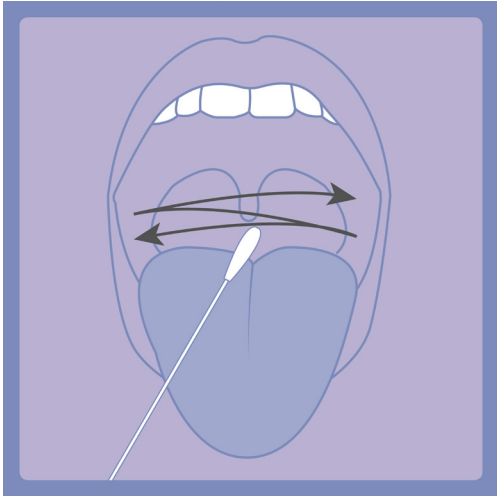
How to take your rectal swab

- 1. Please wash your hands before and after taking your swab
- 2. Remove the swab from the packaging
- 3. Part your buttocks and insert the swab 2-3 centimetres
- 4. Gently twist the swab on one side of the rectal wall and remove
- 5. Remove the lid from the tube and put the cotton end into the tube (please ensure you do not spill the liquid in the tube)
- 6. Snap off the end of the swab at the notch
- 7. Screw the lid back onto the tube tightly to avoid any leakage.



How to take your throat (pharyngeal) swab

- 1. Please wash your hands before you take your sample
- 2. Remove the swab from the packaging
- 3. Open your mouth wide and wipe the cotton end of the swab around the tonsils area on either side of your throat several times
- 4. Try not to touch the teeth, tongue or cheeks with the swab
- 5. Remove the lid from the tube and put the cotton end into the tube (please ensure you do not spill the liquid in the tube)
- 6. Snap off the end of the swab at the notch
- 7. Screw the lid onto the tube tightly to avoid any leakage.



Returning your samples for testing

- 1. Make sure the lids are put back on securely before packing
- 2. Put the samples back in their transport cases
- 3. Put the transport cases in the yellow bag and seal shut
- 4. Please put the yellow bag with the samples back into the box and seal closed with the security sticker
- 5. Put into any Royal Mail Post box for delivery to us - the postage is already paid and it does not require to be taken to a post office.

Getting your results

Included in the kit is a small card with your clinic number that starts with AN. Please hold onto this. It has the results line phone number across the top which you will need to call in one week’s time.

When you call, ignore the letters “AN” and just enter the 8 digit number followed by your date of birth when requested on the phone.

Your results will then be given out over the phone by an automated service.

What happens next

If any of your results are positive we will contact you by text or by phone. We will discuss the best way to organise treatment for you and any sexual partners who also need testing or treatment.

Medical Photography, NHS Lothian, MD, 21_03076

Chalmers Sexual Health Home Sampling Kit- Female V1.0
Approved by NHS Lothian Patient Information Team: Mar 2021
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LOT2161

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