

# Annex 5. Pathogen-specific eligibility criteria

**Table A5. Pathogen-specific eligibility criteria**

	Chlamydia	Gonorrhoea	Trichomoniasis	Syphilis
<b>Clinical specimen</b>				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Genital samples, ano-rectal samples, other extra-genital sites in pooled sampling.</li> <li>Urine.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Genital samples, ano-rectal samples, other extra-genital sites in pooled sampling.</li> <li>Urine.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Genital samples, ano-rectal samples, other extra-genital sites in pooled sampling.</li> <li>Urine.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blood</li> <li>Fluid or exudate from sores.</li> </ul>
<b>Diagnostic principles</b>				
Pathogen detection <sup>1</sup>	Included, but excluding lateral flow antigen RDTs.	Included, but excluding lateral flow antigen RDTs.	Included	Included
Host response <sup>2</sup>	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded	Included
Microscopy	Excluded	Included	Included	Included
Culture	Included	Included	Included	Included

1 includes methods such as NAAT and DFA.

2 includes methods for the detection of different molecules produced by the host as a response to infection, such as antibodies.

DFA Direct fluorescent antibody stain;

NAAT Nucleic acid amplification tests (gold standard and currently recommended for routine use);

PCR polymerase chain reaction;

IgA immunoglobulin A;

IgM immunoglobulin M antibodies;

IgG immunoglobulin.

G Genital samples<sup>1</sup> include high vaginal swab (HVS), vaginal discharge, vulval swab, labial swab, cervical swab, endocervical swab, penile swab, urethral swab, genital ulcer swab, semen, screening swabs for *N. gonorrhoeae*, aspirates from Bartholin's gland, fallopian tube, tubo-ovarian abscess, pouch of Douglas fluid, intra-uterine contraceptive device (IUCD), and conception products.

1 <https://mft.nhs.uk/app/uploads/2020/10/Genital-Specimens-for-Culture.pdf> (accessed 12 March 2024).