<table>
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<th>TEST</th>
<th>Genital Culture and Sensitivity, Routine</th>
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| SYNONYM/S | 1. Genital (Routine) Culture and Sensitivity  
          2. Urethral Discharge Culture and Sensitivity  
          3. Vaginal Discharge Culture and Sensitivity |
| LAB SECTION | Bacteriology |
| AVAILABILITY | Daily (24 hours) |
| TURN AROUND TIME (TAT)  
(upon receipt of the laboratory) | 3 days |
| PATIENT PREPARATION | No special patient preparation necessary. |
| SPECIMEN | Swab, aspiration, or drainage |
| VOLUME OF SPECIMEN | N/A |
| CONTAINER | Sterile Container  
  Specimen site and date/time of collection are required for processing and should be indicated in the container. |
| CAUSES OF REJECTION | Specimen not transported to laboratory within 2 hours after collection  
  Specimen not submitted in appropriate transport container  
  Improperly labeled specimen; external contamination  
  Note: If an unacceptable specimen is received, the physician or nursing station will be notified and another specimen will be requested before the specimen is discarded. |
| COLLECTION AND TRANSPORT | **Females:**  
  Cervix  
  1. Clean by wiping away mucus and secretions from the cervix with a swab and discard.  
  2. Firmly sample the endocervical canal with a sterile swab.  
  3. Place in swab transport medium or directly inoculate plates.  
  **Vagina**  
  1. Remove excessive amount of secretion or discharge.  
  2. Obtain secretions from mucosal membrane of the vaginal vault with a sterile swab.  
  3. If smear is also requested, collect a second swab.  
  4. Place swab in transport medium.  
  **Males:**  
  Urethra  
  1. Insert a urethrogenital swab 2 to 4 cm into the urethral lumen, rotate swab.  
  2. Leave in place for at least 2 seconds to facilitate absorption.  
  3. Place swab in transport medium or directly inoculate plates.  
  Transport to the Bacteriology Laboratory immediately at room temperature. |
| SPECIMEN STABILITY AND STORAGE | Do not refrigerate. Refrigeration may prevent the recovery of Neisseria gonorrhoeae. |
| NORMAL VALUE | No growth after 48 hours of incubation. |
| METHODOLOGY | Bacterial culture |
| ADDITIONAL INFORMATION | Normal vaginal flora includes lactobacilli, corynebacteria, enteric Gram negative rods, enterococci, alpha and gamma streptococci, coagulase-negative staphylococci, and anaerobes.  
  The male urethra contains skin organisms, such as coagulase-negative staphylococci, micrococci, corynebacteria, alpha and gamma streptococci. |