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## CHLAMYDIA TRACHOMATIS ANTIGEN DETECTION (DIF)

**Synonym(s):** Chlamydia IF

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<b>Lab Section Category</b>	<b>Bacteriology/Mycology/Parasitology - Bacteria</b> Click here to find out more about the <b>write-up (/Clinical-Departments-Centers/Pathology/Pathology-Handbook/Lab-Discipline-Special-Instructions/pages/bacteriology-mycology-parasitology.aspx)</b> .
<b>Specimen Required</b>	<p>Chlamydia are intracellular organisms that infect epithelial surfaces. As such, specimens collected must contain as many epithelial cells as possible. Hence, specimens should ideally be swabs of epithelial surfaces with a good sampling of cells, e.g., conjunctival swabs, urethral swabs, cervical swabs.</p> <p><b>General principles for collection of swab specimens:</b> Wipe off excess mucous/pus from site with cotton or Dacron swab. Discard swab. Use new Dacron swab to obtain epithelial cells.</p> <p>For:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urethra: Insert a small Dacron swab 2 – 4 cm into urethra, rotate swab and withdraw.</li> <li>Cervix: Insert large or small Dacron swab into endocervix canal until most of the tip is not visible. Rotate for 5 – 10 seconds inside canal, withdraw swab without touching any vaginal surfaces.</li> <li>Conjunctival swab: Using a small Dacron swab, thoroughly swab the inner surface of the lower, then the upper eyelid.</li> </ol> <p>Patient samples that are obtained by swabs should be smeared onto the well of the Teflon-coated slide (obtainable from the laboratory, Tel: 63214961) at the bedside. The slide should be air-dried completely.</p>
<b>Storage and Transport</b>	Smeared and air-dried teflon-coated slide should be dispatched to the laboratory in a slide container.
<b>Method</b>	Direct Immunofluorescence (DIF)



<b>Test Result</b>	Positive for <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> by IF (Elementary bodies seen); <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> elementary bodies not seen by IF
<b>Turnaround Time</b>	Range 1 – 3 days
<b>Day(s) Test Set up</b>	Monday - Friday
<b>Remarks</b>	The following types of specimens will be <b>rejected</b> by the laboratory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Body fluids (e.g. semen and urine)</li><li>- Pieces of tissue</li><li>- Rectal swabs</li><li>- Samples submitted in the form of dry swabs</li></ul>

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