HIGH VAGINAL SWAB COLLECTION IN THE EMERGENCY CENTRE

PURPOSE
To identify those situations when a high vaginal swab (HVS) should be collected in the Emergency Centre.

Procedure
High Vaginal Swabs are often used to diagnose causes of vaginal discharge but they are of limited value.1

HVS may be used to aid the diagnosis of bacterial vaginosis, vulvovaginal candidiasis and *Trichomonas vaginalis*.

Indications for HVS Collection

- Sex workers
- Sexually active women < 25 years of age and not in a stable long term relationship
- Substance users (especially IVDU)
- Women who have recently changed their sexual partner.
- Women with multiple sexual partners
- Women travelling away from home
- Women from a high incidence STI area.
- Vaginal discharge with malodour, itch or pain
- Vaginal or cervical inflammation
- Coital pain and post coital bleeding
- Contact bleeding of the cervix
- Lower abdominal pain indicating Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID).

Collection
Refer to Clinical Guideline: Obstetrics and Gynaecology: [Low Vaginal, High Vaginal, Endocervical and Rectal Swabs](#)

NB: The indication for collection *must* be documented on the Pathology Request form.
REFERENCES / STANDARDS
1. Jungmann E, Johnson AM, Ridgway G, Durrant K, Robinson AJ. How useful are high vaginal swabs in general 

National Standards – 1- Care Provided by the Clinical Workforce is Guided by Current Best Practice 
Legislation - Nil 
Related Guidelines / Policies – Speculum Examination 
Swabs: Low vaginal, High Vaginal, Endocervical and Rectal 

Other related documents – 

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