

	Bloods	NAAT/PCR¹
All Females	HIV, Hepatitis B surface antigen, Syphilis, +/- Hepatitis C Ab ²	VulvoVaginal Swab ^{3,4} (VVS) +/- Rectal/ Pharyngeal
Heterosexual Males	HIV, Hepatitis B surface antigen, Syphilis +/- Hepatitis C Ab ²	First Void Urine (FVU) ⁴
Men who have sex with Men (MSM)	HIV, Hepatitis B surface antigen, Hepatitis C Ab ² /PCR, Syphilis	FVU, Pharyngeal, Rectal ⁴

¹ The Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAATs)/PCR is the gold standard for chlamydia and gonorrhoea testing. The type of test may vary for different laboratories. Most commercially available assays can test for both Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea on the same specimen.

Trichomonas vaginalis PCR is available from some laboratories and can be done on the same swab as chlamydia and gonorrhoea. *Trichomonas vaginalis* and *Mycoplasma genitalium* should be specifically requested on the testing form. Currently available kits are licensed for use on urethral, urine, vulvovaginal and endocervical samples. For clinicians who do not have access to chlamydia/gonorrhoea NAAT kits from their local laboratory, these can be ordered from the National Viral Reference Laboratory (NVRL) and will be posted to the practice free of charge. Further information on swab ordering is available on the [NVRL website](#).

²[Hepatitis C testing \(HCV\)](#) should be considered part of routine sexual health screening in the following circumstances: MSM; People living with HIV; Commercial sex workers; People who inject drugs (PWID). Partners of the above should also be considered for HCV testing.

³ Studies suggest that low vaginal swabs are more sensitive than endocervical swabs. A high vaginal swab is required to assess for thrush, *Trichomonas vaginalis* and laboratory features of bacterial vaginosis.

⁴ A self-collected swab can also be used to test for STIs. Self-testing is appropriate for all asymptomatic patients. Vulvovaginal swab, first void urine, rectal and pharyngeal swabs are all suitable for self-collection. Information for the patient on how to perform a self-collected swab is usually included in the packaging for each kit.