

# CHILDLAB

## Guide to Laboratory Services

### CHLAMYDIA TRACHOMATIS CULTURE

#### I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Chlamydia trachomatis is responsible for a spectrum of clinical presentations in the pediatric setting, from conjunctivitis to pneumonia in infancy and urethritis to pelvic inflammatory disease in the sexually active adolescent. Appropriate specimens for laboratory diagnosis include conjunctivae, nasopharynx, and lower respiratory tract, as well as the urethra, cervix and upper genital tract. Specimens which are primarily purulent exudate (PMN's, mononuclear cells) are much less likely to contain organisms than specimens with a large number of epithelial cells since the organism is an intracellular pathogen and infects these cells.

#### II. SPECIMEN COLLECTION

- (1) Swab specimens should be collected using the ChildLab General Viral, Chlamydial, Mycoplasma collection kit. Refer to the printed instruction sheet for more information. **Cotton swabs with wooden shafts must not be used as these may be toxic to Chlamydia.**
- (2) Because Chlamydia are intracellular organisms, rigorous swab specimens obtained by scraping mucosal surfaces are required to insure presence of potentially infected epithelial cells.
- (3) Refer to the Laboratory Guide to Services for testing day information.