How to take the Anal Swab

IMPORTANT: Do not touch the soft tip of the swab or lay the swab down. If the soft tip is touched, the swab is laid down, or the swab is dropped, ask for a new test kit. Remove the swab from the package carefully; do not lay it down.

1. What's in the kit:
   a) A sealed swab tube clearly labelled with your identification details.
   b) A plastic zip-lock bag.

2. Start:
   • Wash your hands with soap and water before taking a sample and dry thoroughly.
   The swab:
   • Break the seal on the swab tube.

3. Taking the sample 1:
   • Position yourself comfortably that will allow you to access your bum (place your foot on step)
   • Pull one bum cheek to the side
   • Hold the swab tightly and slowly insert the soft tip into your anus 3-4 cm
   • Slowly rotate the inserted swab 3 times.
   • To remove the swab, twist slightly as you slowly pull it out of your anus.

4. Taking the sample 2:
   • Place the completed throat specimen (and other samples) into the zip lock plastic bag provided.

5. Return to swab tube:
   • Replace the swab back in to the original labelled plastic tube.

6. Return to swab tube:
   • Place the completed throat specimen (and other samples) into the zip lock plastic bag provided.

7. Wash Hands:
   • Wash you hands again with soap and water

8. Finish:
   Your specimen is now ready to take to Any Melbourne pathology collection centre.

Remember to request for a blood sample when you drop off your specimen (if you are testing for HIV or Syphilis)