1. **What specimen sources are acceptable?**
   Urine, cervical and vaginal swabs are the only acceptable sources. All other sources will be cancelled. If testing is required from another source (Example: eye or rectal) a miscellaneous send out test should be ordered.

2. **Are the collection tubes for urine and swab collection the same?**
   Yes, the collection tubes are the same. The urine collection kit contains a transfer pipette to fill the tube with urine until the fluid level is between the two black lines. The swab collection kit contains a swab that is used for specimen collection and inserted into the collection tube.

3. **Why are there two collection swabs in the swab collection kit?**
   There are two identical swabs in the collection kit. For endocervical collection, one of the swabs should be used as a cleaning swab to remove excess mucus from the cervix and discarded. The second swab is used to collect cells from the endocervical canal. If no swabs OR two swabs are submitted in the collection kit testing will be cancelled.

4. **Are ThinPrep vials acceptable?**
   No. Although ThinPrep vials are an acceptable collection vial, they must be batched and processed separately with a liquid cytology prep kit and cannot be processed with swab and urine specimens. There is insufficient volume collected in ThinPrep vials to support this. If a ThinPrep vial is collected for PAP and/or HPV testing with concern for collection of a second swab, a urine specimen should be submitted.

5. **What is the sensitivity of the COBAS test?** (EB = elementary body, CFU = colony forming unit)
   - CT Endocervical Swab: 200 EB/mL
   - GC Endocervical Swab: 2.0 CFU/mL
   - CT Vaginal Swab: 300 EB/mL
   - GC Vaginal Swab: 3.0 CFU/mL
   - CT Male Urine: 40 EB/mL
   - GC Male Urine: 0.6 CFU/mL
   - CT Female Urine: 40 EB/mL
   - GC Female Urine: 0.4 CFU/mL

6. **The expiration dates on the collection tube and collection devices do not always match the expiration date on the collection kits. What collection date should be adhered?**
   Adhere to the expiration date on the collection kit.
   The collection tubes have an expiration date and the collection devices (swab or pipette) have an expiration date. The expiration date on the collection kit matches the shortest outdate from the collection tube or collection device (Swab or pipette).

7. **Are male swabs acceptable?**
   No. Urine samples should be submitted on males.

8. **How long are urine specimens stable prior to being transferred to the cobas PCR media tube?**
   Urine specimens should be transferred into cobas PCR media tubes immediately. If specimens cannot be transferred immediately, they can be stored at 2° to 30°C for up to 24 hours.

9. **How long are specimens stable in cobas PCR media tubes?**
   Stabilized specimens in cobas PCR media tubes are stable at 2° to 30°C for up to 12 months.

10. **What type of urine is acceptable?**
    The first 10-50 mL of first catch urine should be collected.