

## Collecting Salivary Cotinine

### Sample Collection Method Overview

- ✓ **Passive Drool**
- ✓ **SalivaBio Swabs**

### + Special Considerations

Salimetrics cotinine assay is designed to be highly sensitive so that discrimination can be made between primary and secondary tobacco smoke exposure. Levels of cotinine in heavy smokers will be off-scale and must be assayed on dilution.

Cotinine is a metabolite of nicotine. Nicotine has found its way into many consumer products including water, patches, gum, water, and food ingredients.

### + Sample Collection (General Procedure)

#### Before Sample Collection

- Avoid foods with high sugar or acidity, or high caffeine content, immediately before sample collection, since they may compromise the assay by lowering saliva pH and increasing bacterial growth.
- Document consumption of alcohol, caffeine, nicotine, and prescription/over-the-counter medications within the prior 12 hours.
- Document the presence of oral diseases or injury.
- Consider documenting parameters to estimate saliva flow rate.
- Rinse mouth with water to remove food residue and **wait at least 10 minutes** after rinsing to avoid sample dilution before collecting saliva.

#### During Sample Collection

- **Recommended Collection Volume: 75  $\mu$ l\***
- Follow desired sample collection device protocol

\*Add 300  $\mu$ l to the total volume of all tests for liquid handling loss

#### After Sample Collection

- Record the time and date of specimen collection.
- Refrigerate samples immediately (if possible) and freeze at or below  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  (household freezer) as soon as possible.
- Samples visibly contaminated with blood should be recollected.
- Do not add sodium azide to saliva samples as a preservative.