

1 Appendix 1

2 Samples will be collected from the vagina as outlined in table 3 and in the protocol. Moreover, we

3 collect seminal samples from the partner at oocyte retrieval day and a fecal specimen from the

4 newborn diaper within 3 weeks from birth. Vaginal swabs that are taken at the clinic are taken with

5 a flocked swab and placed in Eswab (Copan™) except for the seminal sample, which is kept in a

6 1.8 mL cryotube, Nunc™, cryotube™, Thermo Scientific. The vaginal swabs taken at home, in

7 pregnancy, after birth and the fecal swab are taken by the patient using flocked swabs and placed in

8 an eNAT tube (Copan™). All the vaginal samples are taken after these instructions: the vaginal

9 swab has to be placed at least 8 cm into the vaginal cavity for 10 seconds and rotated clockwise.

10 The fecal swab has to be a deep sample and has to be rotated in the feces for 10 seconds. The semen

11 sample is collected after homogenization and then 200 microL are transferred to the cryotube using

12 a pipette.

13 Only the vaginal swab at screening visit is sent immediately to the central laboratory at Statens

14 Serum Institute, Denmark for analysis within 7 days. All vaginal swabs taken during study visits

15 and the seminal sample are immediately frozen at minus 80 degrees at the respective clinics. All

16 samples are stored at the clinics until they are to be transferred by dry ice shipment to the central

17 laboratory. Finally, the home-samples (vaginal samples and the fecal sample) are sent with return

18 envelopes to the patients when they are supposed to take the sample and samples are received back

19 at the Fertility Clinic in Skive, Denmark where they are stored at -80 degrees. For the sub-study

20 explained in the protocol concerning the 20 patients taking daily vaginal home-samples (Copan

21 ESwab™), these are kept in the patient's own freezer (-20 degrees) until embryo transfer day where

22 the first 12-16 samples will be delivered to the clinic and stored at minus 80 degrees. The remaining

23 5-9 samples are kept in the patient's own freezer (-20) until her next visit which may be either hCG

24 test day, clinical pregnancy scan or a visit during the subsequent cycle due to no pregnancy.