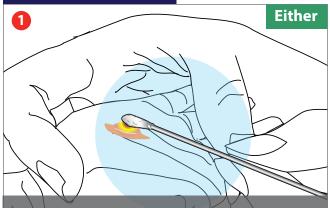
- 1 You will need either:
  - a. Viral swab with viral transit medium
  - b. Virocult swab (green top)
  - c. Dry swab

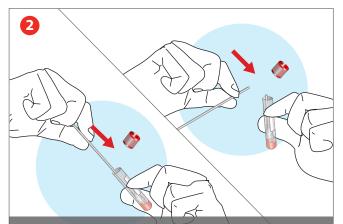
NB – Nose and throat swabs used for collecting flu samples are suitable. Bacterial, charcoal, or chlamydia swabs are not suitable.

2 A copy of the request form E11. Please download from www.gov.uk/government/publications/varicella-zoster-virus-referral-form

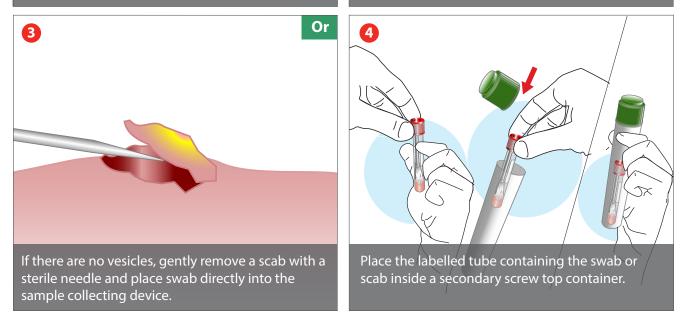
## Taking the sample



Open the packet containing the swab and remove the swab. Using a sterile needle gently lift the edge of the largest shingles vesicle (ie un-roof the vesicle). Rub base of lesion with the swab to collect vesicle fluid and virus-infected epithelial cells.



Place swab inside specimen collection tube. Please print the name, date of birth and today's date on the label on the sample tube. If necessary break the swab handle to seal the tube.



- **3** Please complete all requested information on the E11 form.
- 4 Package the sample and send completed E11 form with clinical samples to:

Virus Reference Department (VRD) UKHSA 61 Colindale Avenue London NW9 5EQ