

# SPECIMEN COLLECTION

## FOR THE CERVICAL SCREENING PROGRAM

The collection of cervical cells is completed the same way that a usual Pap smear was collected, with the only difference being that the cervical cells are now placed into a specific liquid in a vial rather than on a slide.

### MATERIALS REQUIRED

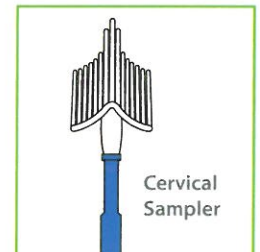
1. Western Diagnostic Pathology request form
2. Western Diagnostic Pathology Cervical Sampling Kit
3. ThinPrep® vials.



### 1. OBTAIN AN ADEQUATE SAMPLE FROM THE CERVIX

- a) Use luke warm water to lubricate and warm the speculum. A water soluble gel lubricant can be sparingly applied to the posterior blade if necessary. Do not use carbomer-based lubricants.
- b) Insert the speculum.
- c) Insert the central bristles of the Cervical Sampler deep enough into the endocervical canal to ensure the shorter bristles contact the exocervix, then push gently and rotate the broom in a full clockwise direction **4 - 5 times**.

**Please note:** An endocervical brush should not be used in pregnant women.



### 2. PLACE THE CERVICAL SAMPLER INTO THE THINPREP® VIAL ASAP

- a) Ensure the ThinPrep® vial is within the use by date. The liquid can be stored at room temperature and does not require refrigeration.
- b) Push the Cervical Sampler into the bottom of the vial **10 times**, ensuring to push hard enough to force the bristles apart.
- c) Swirl the Cervical Sampler before removing it from the vial.
- d) Discard the Cervical Sampler.

**Please note:** Do not make any glass slides.

### 3. SECURE THE CAP ON THE VIAL

Tighten the cap enough that the torque line on the cap is in line with the torque line on the vial.

### 4. RECORD THE PATIENT DETAILS AND COMPLETE THE REQUEST FORM

- a) Record the patient's full name and date of birth on the vial.
- b) Complete the patient's details on the request form providing as much information as possible.

Pertinent clinical details are essential for reliable cervical screening. Please ensure to request **HPV for cervical screening** and state the **REASON** for test, e.g. screening or symptomatic.

*Other important information* should be noted on the request form under clinical notes.

#### **Doctor please consider:**

- Patients who are symptomatic (e.g. history of abnormal vaginal bleeding) require both an HPV and a concurrent liquid-based cytology (LBC).
- Patients who have previously been diagnosed with endocervical adenocarcinoma in-situ (AIS), also require a concurrent LBC annually.
- Patients who are immune deficient are advised to repeat testing in 3 years not 5 years.

### 5. PACKAGE THE SAMPLE AND REQUEST FORM FOR TRANSPORT

Place both the vial and request form into a specimen bag for transport to the laboratory in the usual manner.

### MEDICARE REBATE

Cervical screening requests that follow the national prescribed laboratory process will be bulk billed subject to Medicare guidelines and criteria.

If Medicare guidelines and criteria are not met, an out-of-pocket fee may apply. If the patient wants additional cervical cytology smears that do not fit the MBS criteria, these tests will not be rebated by Medicare.