

# Specimen Collection

The proper specimen collection technique is very important in identifying pathogens from DNA. Medical Diagnostic Laboratories, L.L.C. provides the **OneSwab®**, **UroSwab®**, and **NasoSwab®** specimen collection platforms for your convenience. For women, the sequence of Pap testing in relation to other cervical or vaginal specimens does not appear to influence Pap test results or their interpretation. Therefore, when other specimens are collected for gynecological testing, the Pap test can be obtained last.

## Collecting samples with **OneSwab®**



- Step 1. Firmly, yet gently, sample the endocervical canal with the sterile swab rotating it 360° for 10 to 30 seconds to ensure adequate sampling. When sampling a crusted over lesion, moisten the swab in sterile saline prior to taking the sample.
- Step 2. Remove the swab and place into the vial. Break the shaft at molded break point and insert into transport medium.
- Step 3. To prevent leakage, be sure the swab fits into the vial prior to capping. Tightly cap the vial and label with a minimum of two patient identifiers such as name and date of birth. For packaging and shipping instructions, please refer to MDL's catalog of services.

## Collecting samples for Vaginal Group B Strep (GBS) with **OneSwab®**

Obtaining specimens for the diagnosis of GBS infection from both the anorectum and the distal vagina increases the sensitivity by a considerable percentage (5% to 25%) over vaginal swabbing alone. Within the genital tract, the highest isolation rates are reported from introitus and the lowest from the cervix. Pregnancy does not influence colonization.

## Collecting samples of loose stool specimens with **OneSwab®**

- Step 1. Utilize the swab provided to obtain a sample of loose stool and insert into the vial.
- Step 2. Remove the swab and place into the vial. Break the shaft at molded break point and insert into transport medium.
- Step 3. To prevent leakage, be sure the swab fits into the vial prior to capping. Tightly cap the vial and label with a minimum of two patient identifiers such as name and date of birth. For packaging and shipping instructions, please refer to MDL's catalog of services.

## Collecting samples with **UroSwab®**

- Step 1. Urine collection should be at least one hour between voids.
- Step 2. Have the patient collect a urine sample in a urine container.
- Step 3. Dip the sponge into the urine container.
- Step 4. Place the sponge into the vial. To prevent leakage, tightly cap the vial. Label with a minimum of two patient identifiers such as name and date of birth. For packaging and shipping instructions, please refer to MDL's catalog of services.

## Collecting samples with **NasoSwab®**

- Step 1. Aseptically remove the sterile swab from package, without touching the swab head.
- Step 2. Tilt the patient's head slightly upwards. Insert the brush end downwards into the nostril all the way to the guard. Be sure to direct the swab down towards the throat and not up towards the forehead. Rotate the swab 360°.
- Step 3. Aseptically remove cap from vial.
- Step 4. Break swab at molded break point and insert into transport medium.
- Step 5. To prevent leakage, be sure the swab fits into the vial prior to capping. Tightly cap the vial and label with a minimum of two patient identifiers such as name and date of birth. For packaging and shipping instructions, please refer to MDL's catalog of services.



**Medical Diagnostic Laboratories L.L.C.**

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# Quick Reference Guide

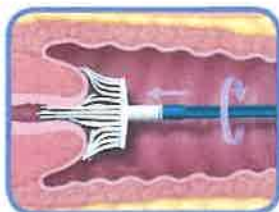
## ThinPrep® Pap Test Instructions for direct to vial specimen collection

### ThinPrep Pap Test Cervical Sampler Broom protocol

- Prepare all equipment before starting the procedure.
- Note expiry date on sample collection vial. Do not use expired vials.
- Ensure the entire plastic seal is removed from the lid of the vial and discarded.
- Remove the lid from the vial before taking the sample.
- If lubrication of the speculum is required, please use warm water.  
The use of lubricant may interfere with pathology tests. However, if necessary a small amount of water-soluble carbomer-free lubricant should be applied sparingly to the outer portion of the speculum.
- An endocervical brush may also be used in combination with the cervical sampler at the discretion of the practitioner. Both sampling devices should be rinsed in the same patient vial.



**Record** the patient's full name and date of birth on the vial as required by local regulations. The patient information and medical history should be recorded on the pathology request form.



**Obtain** an adequate sample from the transformation zone of the cervix using a cervical sampler (broom-like device). Insert the central bristles of the broom into the endocervical canal deep enough to allow the shorter bristles to fully contact the ectocervix. Push gently, and rotate the brush 360° in a clockwise direction 3-5 times.



**Rinse** the cervical sampler immediately into the vial by pushing it into the bottom of the vial 10 times, forcing the bristles apart. As a final step, swirl the brush **vigorously** to further release material. Visually inspect the cervical sampler to ensure that no material remains attached. Discard the collection device.

**Do not leave the head of the cervical sampler in the vial.**



**Tighten** the cap so that the black torque line on the cap passes the black torque line on the vial. **Do not over-tighten.** Place the vial and pathology request form in a specimen bag for transportation to the laboratory.

Note: Certain molecular tests, such as HPV, CT/GC, TV, M gen, can be performed from the same material collected for the ThinPrep Pap Test. Contact your laboratory for more information