

# SELF-COLLECT HPV Specimen Collection FOR THE CERVICAL SCREENING PROGRAM



## PLEASE NOTE:

- The self-testing option is only available to women who have never been screened or are significantly under-screened (>30 years old and >2 years since last smear). It is not to be used in addition to the normal cervical screening process.
- Self-collects tend to only be about 70% as effective as sample taken by a doctor.
- The laboratories cannot do any reflex liquid-based cytology (LBC) on the sample if it is required.
- If the HPV test is positive for HPV 16/18 the patient will be referred to a specialist.
- If the HPV test is positive for other high risk HPV, the patient will need to return to her GP to have a LBC for cytology.
- Self-collects are only to be taken "under general practitioner or nurse practitioner supervision" in a health care facility, NOT AT HOME.
- Self-collection is contra-indicated in pregnancy.

## MATERIALS REQUIRED

For self-collect the following materials are required:

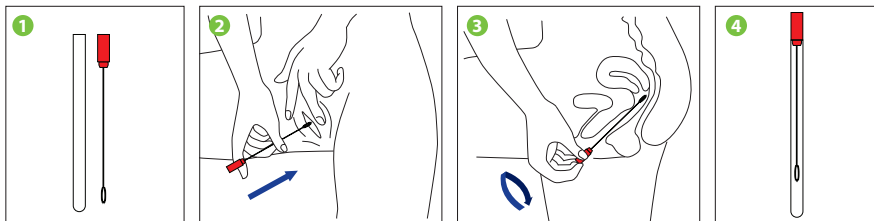
1. Lavery pathology request form
2. Dry flocked swab
3. These instructions below



Dry flocked swab

## SELF COLLECTION

1. **Use a dry flocked swab** - do not use any lubricant.
2. **Insert the dry flocked swab deep into vagina, not just the entrance.**
3. **Move around** in a circular motion for about 10 rotations and then move around other areas deep in the vagina.
4. **Immediately place** the dry flocked swab **back into the container** and secure the cap.



## MEDICARE REBATE

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

For self-collection Medicare will only bulk bill for 1 test in a 7 year period for self testing. If more than 1 test is conducted an out-of-pocket fee will apply. The patient should be informed of this.

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.

## THE DOCTOR MUST THEN

5. **Record the patient's full name and date of birth on the swab.**
6. **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 clearly indicate **CERVICAL SCREENING TEST - SELF COLLECTION** on the request form. *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 liquidbased cytology (LBC). A self-collect sample is therefore not recommended in these circumstances.
- 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.

### 7. Package the sample and request form for transportation

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