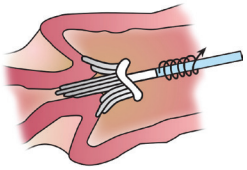
Cervical Cancer Screening Collection: The Pap Test

1. Label the vial with the woman's first name, last name and PHIN (or RCMP, military, other provincial/territorial, or passport number). The PHIN and name on the vial must match the PHIN and name on the requisition.

2. Insert an appropriately sized speculum and inspect the cervix (warm water may be used to lubricate the speculum if necessary).

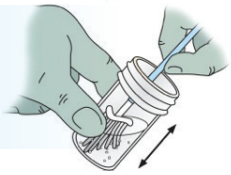
3. Take STI specimens if required. Gently wipe away excessive discharge/mucous on the cervix with an oversized cotton swab. This should be done as gently as possible to avoid removing the cervical cells to be sampled.

4. Insert the broom deeply enough into the endocervical canal so that the shorter bristles fully contact the ectocervix. Rotate the broom 5 times in a clockwise direction.



For SurePath: Insert the broom into the larger opening of the vial. Rotate the broom 90° to use the inner edge of the insert to pull off the broom into the vial.

For ThinPrep: Rinse the broom by pushing it into the bottom of the vial 10 times, forcing the bristles apart. Then, swirl the broom vigorously to release more material.

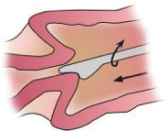


5. Place the cap on the vial and tighten firmly.

Any visual cervical abnormalities and/or symptoms (i.e. abnormal bleeding or discharge) must be investigated regardless of cytology findings.

Alternative collection method: A plastic spatula and cytobrush may also be used to collect LBC samples.

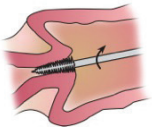
1. **Spatula**
Insert the spatula into the cervical os and rotate 360° with firm pressure.



For SurePath: *Snap* off the head of the spatula (avoid touching the head of the device), and drop into the liquid vial (avoid splashing).

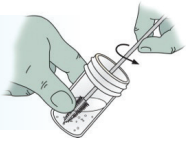
For ThinPrep: *Rinse* the spatula by swirling it vigorously in the vial 10 times. Discard the spatula.

2. **Cytobrush**
Insert the cytobrush into the cervical os no further than the end of the bristles and rotate 90°.



For SurePath: *Snap* off the head of the cytobrush (avoid touching the head of the device), and drop into the liquid vial (avoid splashing).

For ThinPrep: *Rinse* the cytobrush by swirling it vigorously in the vial 10 times. Discard the cytobrush.



Pregnant women

Screening pregnant women is unnecessary if the woman has had routine negative Pap tests, has no symptoms of cervical cancer and/or no visual abnormalities of the cervix. If a Pap test is warranted, aim to screen in the first 10 weeks of pregnancy. If the woman is over 10 weeks pregnant, the benefits of screening should outweigh the potential harms. Only the plastic spatula should be used.

CancerCare Manitoba
ActionCancerManitoba

1-855-952-4325
cancercare.mb.ca/screening/hcp

2026.09 X-HCP-COLLECTION-PAP