

# Healthcare Worker-instructed Self-Collect - HPV Specimen Collection for the Cervical Screening Program

**Any individual who is eligible for cervical screening, as a primary screen or follow up test (after an intermediate risk test 12 months earlier), will be eligible for a self-collect in place of a clinician collected sample.**

Some patients are not eligible, specifically anyone who requires a co-test (cervical cytology). This includes:

- Symptomatic patients
- Patients attending for a Test of Cure after histologically confirmed HSIL.
- Patients who have had previous AIS (endocervical adenocarcinoma in situ).
- DES exposed patients.
- Patients who have previously had gynaecologic cancer.

These patients still require a clinician collected cervical sample as they require both HPV testing (testing for the virus) and cytology co-testing (looking at the cells).

The laboratories cannot perform 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 need to be referred to a specialist.

If the HPV test is positive for other oncogenic HPV, the patient will need to return to their GP to have a (clinician collected) sample for LBC.

Request form must clearly state: **Self collect, cervical screening test.**

## Materials required:

For self-collect the following materials are required:

1. QML Pathology request form
2. Plastic flocked red top swab
3. Self-collect - HPV Specimen Collection of the Cervical Screening Program instructions (overleaf)
4. ThinPrep® vial

Self collect kits containing all the above materials can be ordered from our website. Visit [qml.com.au/clinicians/order-consumables](http://qml.com.au/clinicians/order-consumables).

These kits must be stored & transported at room temperature (15 - 25°C).

Please check expiry dates for swab and ThinPrep® vial.

**Note:** This test is validated for supervision by a Healthcare worker.  
It is not designed as an at home test

## Medicare Rebate:

Cervical screening requests that follow the National prescribed clinical guidelines will be bulk billed subject to Medicare guidelines and criteria. If your patient is not yet due for a CST they will receive an invoice.

**>>> Continued Overleaf**

# Healthcare Worker-instructed Self-Collect Instructions

## Self-collection:

1. Use a **flocked swab (Red Top)** - do not use any lubricant.
2. Insert the **flocked swab (Red Top)** 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 flocked swab (Red Top) **back into the container** and secure the cap.
5. **Give directly to your health care provider, OR follow the steps below:**

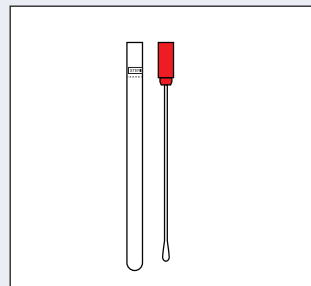
## The doctor or health care provider (or patient if preferred) must then:

1. Check that the ThinPrep® vial has not exceeded its expiry date.
2. Slowly pull the swab cap off to remove the swab from the tube.
3. Fully immerse the tip of the swab into the solution of the ThinPrep® vial.
4. Swirl the swab for 20 seconds.
5. Hold the tip against the inner vial wall to drain fluid from the swab.
6. Place the swab back into tube and **DISCARD**.
7. Re-cap the ThinPrep® vial.
8. Record the patients full name and date of birth on the ThinPrep® vial.
9. Complete the patient's details on the request form with all relevant information.
10. Ensure **SELF COLLECTION, CERVICAL SCREENING TEST** is on the request form.
11. Send **ONLY** the ThinPrep® vial to the laboratory.

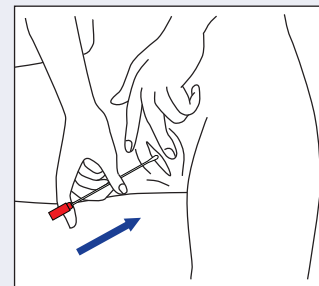
**NOTE:** Specimens must be stored & transported at room temperature (15 - 25°C).



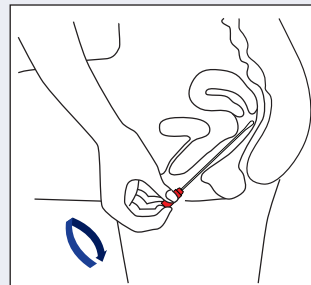
Flocked swab in tube (Red Top)



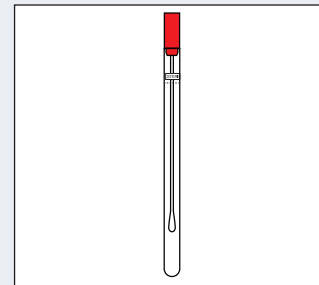
Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step 4