

ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY SERVICE (APS)

Information Guide: HPV and Cervical Cytology

From 31 March 2025, APS no longer accepts Wet Swab samples for HPV testing. If the laboratory receives a vaginal sample collected in a Roche cell collection medium vial, a recollect will be required.

CONSUMABLES & SUPPLY ORDERS

Community Referrers:

An APS Supply Order pad is available, or download the writable PDF from our website:

<https://www.labplus.co.nz/laboratory-services/community-anatomic-pathology-service-aps/>
and email to aps.info@adhb.govt.nz.

Hospital Referrers:

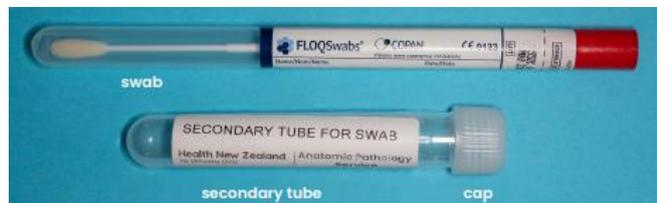
Use FPIM code **377266** to order the new **HPV Swab Collection Kit**.

Dry Swab

HPV Swab Collection Kit (NEW)

Kit comes complete with:

- HPV FLOQ Copan Swab
- Secondary tube
- Instruction sheet



Self-collect swab instructions for HPV testing
Anatomic Pathology Service

ThinPrep® LBC

Thinprep® Vial

- Cervix Scrapers
- Cytobrushes
- Cervix Brooms



SPECIMEN COLLECTION & LABELLING

Specimen containers should be labelled prior to collection and, if possible, in front of the patient. Specimen labels must have a MINIMUM of two patient identifiers:

- **Patient Family Name & First Name**
 - **Patient NHI number and / or DOB**
- and
- **'Date' and 'Time' of sample collection.**

Note:

- Collect **one** sample for HPV and Cervical Cytology testing.
- If both a swab and LBC sample is submitted for one patient, the swab will be discarded.
- An **unlabelled or mislabelled swab sample can not be tested for HPV**, and a recollect will be required.

Dry Swab – HPV only

FLOQ swab self-collect, broken off into the secondary tube.

- Refer to the self-collect swab instructions in kit provided by the laboratory.
- Ensure the **HPV secondary tube** is labelled with a MINIMUM of two patient identifiers.
- Send the secondary tube to the laboratory for testing, the remainder of the kit can be discarded.

If the patient opts to take the HPV self-sampling kit home:

- The patient will need to return the HPV secondary tube to the practice for the sample to be sent to the Anatomical Pathology Services (APS) laboratory for HPV testing.
- Swabs must be tested within 4 weeks of sample collection.
- Prior to sending the home collected sample to the laboratory, check the HPV secondary tube is labelled with the correct details for the patient providing the sample.

Note:

- If using a pre-printed patient label for the HPV secondary tube, place along the length of the tube, not covering the cap. Do not wrap the label horizontally around the tube. Avoid creating a 'flag' (where the label sticks out).

ThinPrep® LBC – HPV and / or Cytology

Speculum examination with cells removed using the cytobrush or cervibroom.

- Take the sample from the transformation zone of the cervix, vagina or vault using the most clinically appropriate device, then vigorously rinse the device in the PreservCyt solution vial by swirling ten times or pushing up against the vial wall. Discard the device.
- Secure the vial to ensure no leakage – re-cap and tighten until the lines on the cap and the vial meet or slightly overlap.

STORAGE & TRANSPORT

All Samples:

- Refrigeration not required.
- Transport in biohazard bag with the laboratory form in the outside pocket.

Community referrers:

- Transport to APS via your regular collection as soon as practicable.

Hospital referrers:

- Samples are sent to LabPLUS and referred on to APS for testing by Support Services.

Sample Type	Storage	Must test within
HPV Dry Swab (in secondary tube)	2°C-30°C	4 weeks
Thinprep® LBC	4°C-37°C	3 weeks

LABORATORY REQUEST FORMS

A completed laboratory request form must accompany the sample to the laboratory. A form with insufficient information will delay processing.

Key Information for Cervical Screening requests:

- Requestor **Name and HPI CPN** (must be an accredited cervical sampletaker)
- **Facility and HPI Facility No.**
- **Sample type and test** requested
- Patient **eligibility** for publicly funded health services
- Patient **history and clinical details** – as per NCSP Clinical Practice Guidelines

Note:

- For **HPV screen-takers**, ensure the **name and HPI CPN of the responsible clinician** who is to receive the results, is on the laboratory form.
- For eOrder and PMS computer forms, **check the printout** to ensure all patient and requestor details, test and clinical information are clearly indicated.
- **Co-tests** are processed as per the clinical guidelines - ensure a valid clinical reason is clearly indicated on the request form:

CLINICAL DETAILS	
<input type="checkbox"/> No symptoms	<input type="checkbox"/> Postmenopausal bleeding
<input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal bleeding	<input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal cervix
<input type="checkbox"/> Postcoital bleeding	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Requests for a report copy to be sent:

- Clearly note the **full name and practice location** of the 'Copy To' practitioner.
- Just writing '**GP**' is insufficient information.
- Check GP information is **up to date** to avoid a patient privacy breach.

Ineligible patients and non-funded tests

If the patient is **ineligible** (e.g. a non-resident without an eligible visa); or a normally eligible patient does not meet the **NCSP guidelines for a cytology co-test** but still wishes to have the cytology test; the patient will need to pay. Provide billing details, e.g. 'Charge Practice'. If 'Charge Patient', include patient's **email address**, mobile contact no. and NZ address.

APS Test Prices

Sample Type and Test	Eligible patient	Ineligible patient	Price incl. GST
Swab for HPV	Funded	Not Funded	\$81.20
LBC for HPV	Funded	Not Funded	\$81.20
LBC for HPV and Cytology (co-test)	Funded if co-test meets the guidelines*	Not Funded	\$139.10
LBC for Cytology only	Funded	Not Funded	\$57.90

*If NCSP guidelines are not met for a co-test, the cytology is not funded and a normally eligible patient will need to pay for the cytology test only.

LABORATORY RESULTS

HPV Result: Unsuitable for Analysis

The laboratory will report an HPV result as 'Unsuitable for Analysis' if the sample is:

- An unlabelled or mislabelled swab
- A Thinprep® LBC vial that has leaked.

Note:

If there is sufficient volume of sample remaining in the LBC vial, cytology will be reported. This may facilitate the repeat HPV test to be a swab sample. Unsuitable for Analysis HPV tests may be repeated without any time delay and should be repeated as soon as practicable.

HPV Result: Invalid

HPV tests can be invalid because of the effects of inhibitory substances or because there is insufficient cellular material present.

Note:

There is some evidence that blood, topical vaginal creams or lubricants can interfere with the HPV test. It is recommended not to take a sample immediately after using these substances or when the patient is menstruating.

If the HPV test is invalid on an LBC sample, cytology will be reported where possible. This may facilitate the repeat HPV test to be a swab sample, as repeat cytology will not be required.

TO SET UP A NEW LAB CODE – THINPREP® USERS

Auckland Community Referrers contact:

Anatomic Pathology Service

External: (09) 302 0516 or 0800 256 356

Email: aps.info@adhb.govt.nz

Northern Region Hospital Referrers contact:

LabLINK, LabPLUS

External: (09) 307 8995 or 0800 522 7587 ("0800 LABPLUS")

Internal: ext. 22000

Email: LabLINK@adhb.govt.nz