

Primary HPV Testing Using Patient-Collected Vaginal Swab Specimens

Date: March 3rd, 2025

Effective Date: March 5th, 2025

FDA-clearance of Primary HPV Testing using patient-collected vaginal swab specimens provides opportunity to increase overall screening rates for HPV in targeted patient populations. Beginning March 5th, 2025, UR Medicine Labs will perform Primary HPV Testing using patient-collected vaginal swab specimens. Providers who use EPIC and want to test for HPV in patient-collected vaginal swab specimens should order TEST CODE: **HPVSO**, TEST NAME: **“Primary HPV – Patient Collected Vaginal Swab, PAP Smear NOT Included”**. Providers who use other EMRs or paper requisitions should contact their UR Medicine Outreach representative to see that the new test information is made available to their ordering method. Note that Test ordering for Provider-collected specimens is unchanged.

Providers should know the following specifics of the FDA-clearance when considering patient-collected vaginal swab specimens for Primary HPV Testing:

- The only specimen patients are allowed to self-collect is a vaginal swab.
- The vaginal swab specimen **must** be collected using a specific swab (Copan FLOQSwabs 552C.RM) intended for this sole purpose which is available to clients of our laboratory using the electronic supply ordering system.
- The vaginal swab specimen **must** be collected in a provider office or clinic to receive appropriate specimen collection instructions and specimen processing.
- The vaginal swab specimen must be immediately transferred to liquid ThinPrep PreservCyt solution by office/clinic staff for transport to the laboratory; the original collection swab should be discarded after the specimen has been transferred to liquid ThinPrep PreservCyt solution. Liquid ThinPrep PreservCyt solution is available to clients of our laboratory using the electronic supply ordering system.
- Tests for STIs and PAP smears **cannot** be performed using patient-collected vaginal swab specimens. Instructions to patients for collecting vaginal swab specimens and instructions to providers for transferring patient-collected vaginal swab specimens to liquid ThinPrep PreservCyt can be found in the following link: [Patient Instructions: Patient-Collected Vaginal Swab for HPV](#)

For any questions, please contact:

Dwight J. Hardy, Ph.D.

Director, Clinical Microbiology

UR Medicine Labs

Professor of Microbiology and Immunology,

Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

University of Rochester Medical Center

Phone: (585) 275-1408

Dwight_Hardy@urmc.rochester.edu