

Cervical Cancer Screening Lab (CCSL) - Cervix Screening Test Liquid-based Cytology (LBC) Collection Quick Reference Guide

Please refer to the Lab Manual for Providers for more comprehensive specimen submission information.

1 Label the vial with the individual's **surname and date of birth.**

A patient label may be affixed along the manufacturer's label; or patient identifiers may be clearly handwritten in pen or pencil.

2 Gently insert a sterile speculum to visualize the cervix. Warm water may be used to lubricate the speculum. For post-menopausal women, a tiny amount of water-soluble, carbomer-free lubricant may be used on exterior sides of speculum if necessary.

→ Please note: use of lubricant will interfere with cytology processing and may yield unsatisfactory results

3 Gently cleanse the cervix with cotton pledget if obscured with discharge or secretions. Identify the transformation zone.

4 **Spatula:** Insert the plastic spatula into the cervical os and rotate 360° maintaining tight contact with ectocervix.



Rinse the spatula as quickly as possible into the PreservCyt® vial by swirling vigorously at least 10 times. Discard the spatula.

+ **Cytobrush:** Insert the cytobrush into the cervix until only bottom-most fibers are seen; slowly rotate ¼ or ½ turn



Rinse the brush as quickly as possible into the PreservCyt® vial by rotating the device at least 10x while pushing against the vial wall. Discard the brush.

5 **Tighten** the vial cap securely (match torque line on cap and vial). Place in a plastic bag with absorbent pad, along with the completed requisition.

→ Refrigeration of the sample is not required

Cautions

- If a clinically suspicious lesion is seen, biopsy immediately.
- A screening test is not needed for colposcopy referral and may be expedited if clinical suspicion is high.
- If the patient is menstruating or infection is present reschedule the exam.
- Irregular bleeding may be a symptom of gynecological malignancy. Pelvic examination with lower genital tract and appropriate investigation is indicated.
- Use of the cytobrush is not recommended in pregnant women.

Unacceptable Samples

- 1) Samples lacking appropriate patient identifiers (surname, DOB) or discrepant identifiers
- 2) Requisition lacking patient identifiers or discrepancies
- 3) Samples exceeding 6 weeks from time of collection
- 4) Leaked vials

Deliver to

Cervical Cancer Screening
Laboratory
655 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4R4

Contact us:

1-877-PHSA-LAB or CCSLclerkal@bccancer.bc.ca