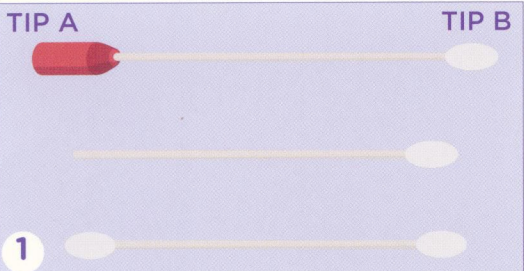


Self-collection is to be completed in a health care setting, behind a screen or in the privacy of a bathroom or toilet. Ask your healthcare provider for help if you are having difficulty with taking the sample, or if you would like them to explain these instructions further.

To collect your own sample, follow these instructions.



1

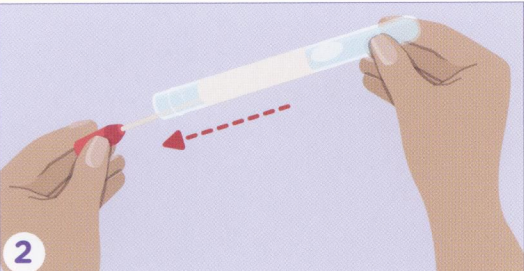
1. Before starting

Your healthcare provider will give you a package. Inside is a swab. Your swab may look different to those pictured here.

Before you open the package, make sure you know which end of the swab can be held (Tip A), and which end is for taking the sample (Tip B). If you are unsure which end is which, ask your healthcare provider for advice.

Before taking the sample make sure your hands are clean and dry.

Make sure you are in a comfortable position and your underwear is lowered.



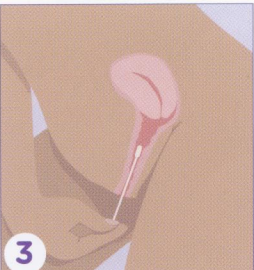
2

2. Preparing the swab

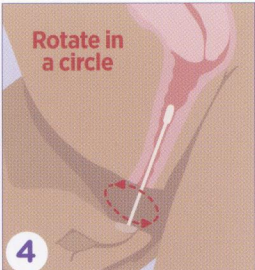
Twist the cap and remove the swab from the packaging.

Make sure not to touch Tip B that will be inserted to collect the sample.

Do not put the swab down.



3



4

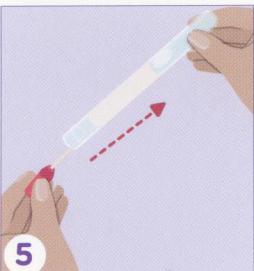
Rotate in a circle

3. Inserting the swab


Use your free hand to move skin folds at the entrance of your vagina. Gently insert Tip B into your vagina (similar to inserting a tampon). The swab may have a line or mark on it showing you how far to insert.

4. Taking the sample

Rotate the swab gently for 10–30 seconds; this should not hurt, but may feel a bit uncomfortable.



5



6

5. Storing the sample

Still holding Tip A, gently remove the swab from your vagina. Place the swab back into the packaging with Tip B going in first. Screw the cap back on and return the package to your healthcare provider.

6. Sending the sample

The sample will be sent to a pathology laboratory for HPV testing. The results of the test will be sent to your healthcare provider.

What if...?	
What if I touched Tip B/the swab with my fingers by mistake?	Please continue to take the sample.
What if I dropped Tip B or the swab on a dry surface?	Please continue to take the sample.
What if I dropped Tip B/the swab on a wet surface?	Let your healthcare provider know and ask them for a new swab kit.

Please note if HPV is detected, you will need to return to your healthcare provider for a clinician-collected sample and appropriate management.



The new Cervical Screening Test and pathway – A risk-based approach

The new Cervical Screening Test detects infection with human papillomavirus (HPV). The Cervical Screening Test and pathway is a risk-based approach to the management of patients participating in the National Cervical Screening Program (NCSP). Partial genotyping is used to classify the type of HPV into one of two groups: oncogenic HPV 16/18 or oncogenic HPV types not 16/18 as a pooled result.

Who is eligible for self-collection?

Self-collection of a vaginal sample for screening is available for patients aged 30 years or over, who have declined to have a cervical sample collected by a clinician, and are either:

- overdue for cervical screening by two years or longer (ie. Four years or more since their last Pap test, or seven years or more since their last Cervical Screening Test), or
- have never screened.

Self-collection must be requested and facilitated by a Cervical Screening Test provider who also offers routine cervical screening services.

Who is not eligible for self-collection?

Self-collection is **not** suitable if the patient:

- is pregnant, or thinks they might be pregnant
- has been exposed to diethyl-stilbestrol (DES) *in utero*
- immune-deficient
- symptomatic eg. is experiencing unusual bleeding, pain or discharge
- has had a total hysterectomy with past history of high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion (HSIL)
- is under 30 years of age.

A self-collected vaginal sample can be used only for human papillomavirus (HPV) testing. If HPV (not 16/18) is detected: encourage the patient to have a clinician-collected sample for liquid-based cytology (LBC) testing at the follow-up appointment. If HPV (16/18) is detected: refer the patient directly for colposcopy and a cervical LBC sample will be collected at that visit.

