

# Guide to self-collect HPV testing



**As of 1 July 2022, self-collect HPV testing is now available to anyone undergoing cervical or vaginal HPV screening aged 25-74 years;**

- Must be over 24 years and 9 months
- Must be due for screening (first test or > 4 years and 9 months since a negative screening result)
- Must not require a co-test
- Must be authorised by a healthcare professional

*Participants may also be offered self-collect sampling for follow-up of Intermediate Risk HPV results at the 12-month rescreen interval.*

## **Self-collection is not recommended for;**

- Symptomatic patients
- Patients undergoing Test of Cure surveillance
- Previous total hysterectomy for high grade squamous or glandular lesions
- Diethylstilbestrol (DES) exposure in utero
- Patients who have had adenocarcinoma in situ (AIS)

**Self-collected samples must be clearly identified as a self-collect sample, as they are not suitable for reflex LBC testing.**

- Where a **self-collect specimen is positive for High Risk HPV**, the patient will be immediately recommended for colposcopy.
- Where a **self-collect specimen is positive for Intermediate Risk HPV**, the patient will require a clinician-collected sample taken from the cervix during a speculum examination, for cytological (LBC) examination.
- If a **self-collect specimen is negative for Intermediate and High Risk HPV**, the patient will be recommended to rescreen at the usual 5-year interval.

## **What's needed for self-collect testing at Medical Practice:**

*NB: Only Copan FLOQSwab 552C.80 is validated for use*

1. Clinical Labs request form - **ensure self-collect HPV test (at Medical Practice) is noted**
2. Clinical Labs HPV testing self-collect instructional flyer for patients
3. Copan FLOQSwab® for vaginal self-collection (552C.80) (Red Top dry swab) – available from Clinical Labs
4. ThinPrep® vial – available from Clinical Labs



*Image of Copan FLOQSwab® 552C.80 and ThinPrep® vial*



## **What's needed for self-collect testing at home:**

*NB: Only Copan FLOQSwab 552C is validated for use*


1. Clinical Labs request form - **ensure self-collect HPV test (at home) is noted**
2. Clinical Labs HPV testing self-collect instructional flyer for patients
3. Copan FLOQSwab® for vaginal self-collection (552C) (Red Top dry swab) – available from Clinical Labs

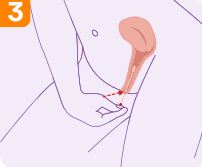


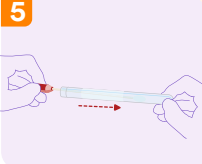
*Image of Copan FLOQSwab® 552C*

## Patient self-collect instructions - at home

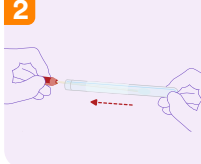
NB: Only Copan FLOQSwab 552C is validated for use at home


**1**  Before you collect your sample ensure you have clean hands. To avoid contamination, do not remove the swab from the container until you are ready to collect your sample and do not use any lubricant.

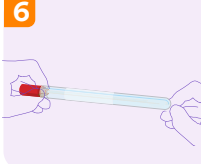
**3**  There is a red line halfway along the swab. Insert the front part of the swab inside your vagina aiming for this red line.

**5**  Remove the swab, place it back in the container and gently secure the cap.

**7** Complete the Clinical Labs patient request form. Please ensure *self-collect HPV test (at home)* is noted on the request form.

**2**  Once you are comfortable, remove the red cap and pull the swab out of the container.

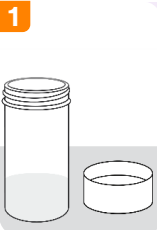
**4**  Once the swab is correctly inside your vagina, rotate it gently in a circular motion for 20-30 seconds.

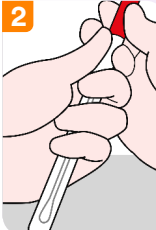
**6**  Hand the container back to your Medical Practice immediately. If the collection is done at home please return the labelled container back to your Medical Practice immediately (*not pathology collection centre*).


## Patient self-collect instructions - at Medical Practice

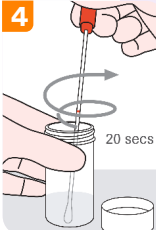
NB: Only Copan FLOQSwab 552C.80 is validated for use at Medical Practice


Once the patient hands the swab to you post-collection, complete the following steps. Self-collected sample must be placed into medium after sample has been collected.

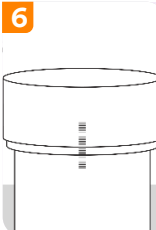
**1**  Carefully uncap the ThinPrep vial containing medium and place on a stable, flat surface.

**2**  Slowly remove the FLOQSwab from the tube, taking care not to knock the swab against the walls of the tube.

**3**  Fully immerse the FLOQSwab tip into the medium so it's touching the bottom of the ThinPrep vial.

**4**  Swirl the swab around the inner wall of the vial for 20 seconds; ensure the swab remains immersed in the medium.

**5**  Carefully draw the swab up the inner wall of the vial, draining any fluid from the swab. Discard the swab safely.

**6**  Re-cap the ThinPrep vial and tighten to prevent leakage. Store upright.

**7** Label ThinPrep vial with the patient's full name and date of birth and complete the Clinical Labs patient request form. Please ensure *self-collect HPV test (at Medical Practice)* is on the request form.

**8** Send the ThinPrep vial to the Clinical Labs laboratory, as per normal process.

For more information on HPV testing with Clinical Labs, visit [clinicallylabs.com.au/cervicalscreeningprogram](http://clinicallylabs.com.au/cervicalscreeningprogram)