

Cervical Sample Collection - Frequently asked questions

1. When should I take a Thinprep sample?

Samples should be taken at midpoint of the menstrual cycle (if appropriate) and routine samples should ONLY be taken if the patient has been called by the NHS Cervical screening programme call/recall system.

2. What do I do if the vial is knocked over?

If the vial is knocked over after the sample has been taken, replace the lid and make a note on the request form to inform the laboratory of the sample spillage. The lab will assess if there is enough specimen to process. Do not "top up" the vial from a new vial as the lab will make any necessary level adjustments.

3. Can I use the Cervex brush for vault samples?

You can use the Cervex Brush to take vault samples by using a sweeping action.

4. Can I use the Cervex brush if there is an extensive ectropion area?

You can use the Cervex Brush when there is an extensive ectropion area. Collect the sample using a circular sweeping action.

5. Can I use the Cervex Brush where there is stenosis of the os?

It is still possible to use the Cervex Brush however an endocervical brush may also be used at the discretion of the practitioner. Both sampling devices should be rinsed in the same patient vial.

6. Can I take a ThinPrep sample if the patient is menstruating?

No. Peri-menstrual samples should be avoided.

7. Do I use 1 or 2 vials if the patient has 2 cervices?

2 vials and brushes are used. Take separate specimens from each cervix using separate brushes and vials, clearly labelled 'left' and 'right'. Indicate clearly on the request form that the patient has 2 specimens from 2 cervices.