



# Swab guide

## Special instructions

- Label swabs with patient's full name, date of birth, collection site, and date and time of collection
- Check expiry date of swabs prior to collection
- MULTIPLE swabs are required if multiple tests are requested
- Where a swab has a score-mark, collect sample, break along mark and place swab back into tube
- Ensure lid is firmly placed on all specimens
- Do NOT refrigerate swab specimen

Insert swab shaft into tube, snap shaft at marked line and recap tube

### General swab - culture/PCR

Sigma Transwab® (standard shaft, orange top)

#### For:

- Culture of bacteria, mycobacteria and fungi
- PCR of lesions (e.g. HSV, Syphilis, M.ulcerans)
- Multi-resistant organism (e.g. MRSA)



Reorder #55625

### NPA Respiratory, male urethral

Sigma Transwab® (thin shaft, blue top)

- Nasopharyngeal (flu, respiratory viral PCR, pertussis PCR)  
A nasopharyngeal swab is optimal; throat swab is an alternative.
- Male urethral (Chlamydia/Gonorrhoea PCR & M/C/S)



Reorder #56316

### Female STI

cobas® swab for Chlamydia/Gonorrhoea PCR (yellow top)

- Includes Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea, Trichomonas Vaginalis, M.genitalium
- Cannot be used for other PCR tests  
Vaginal swab: use woven swab (uni kit). Endocervical swab: first use separate swab to remove cervical mucous, discard, use flocked swab (dual kit). Male patients: first stream urine preferred.



Woven swab/Vaginal swab: Reorder #46046 (uni swab kit)

Flocked swab/Endocervical swab: Reorder #46047 (dual swab)

### CST self-collect, buccal swab

Flocked swab (red top)

- Patient self-collect for HPV PCR (as instructed by clinician)
- Buccal swab for genetic tests

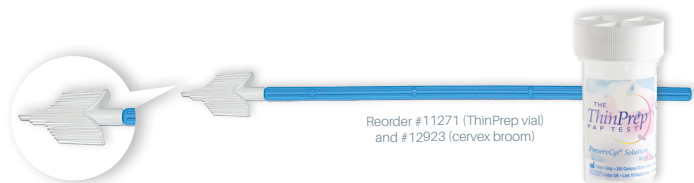


Reorder #24159

### HPV/CST

ThinPrep®

- CST HPV PCR  
+/- LBC  
+/- PCR for Chlamydia/Gonorrhoea  
Use a separate swab to remove cervical mucous, discard. Use the 'Cervex broom' to collect the cervical sample, insert into the ThinPrep® solution and rinse vigorously. Used for Cervical Screening Test as well as HPV PCR testing.



Reorder #11271 (ThinPrep vial) and #12923 (cervex broom)



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Quality is in our DNA

### Swab selection: A simplified approach

- Swabs are the second most frequently processed specimen type in microbiology and molecular pathology.
- The large variety of different swabs has been a longstanding cause of confusion and avoidable specimen re-collections.
- The Sigma Transwab® is now available and allows the use of a **single type of swab for nearly all microbiological and molecular tests.**

### Advantages of the Sigma Transwab®

- Suitable for Gram stain and bacterial culture from any site and for the same range of bacterial pathogens as previous swab types.
- Suitable for diagnosis of viral infections (by PCR) and some fungal infections (e.g. Candida).
- Suitable for all molecular assays (one swab per requested pathogen is preferred).

**For all female Chlamydia/Gonorrhoea collections, please use the cobas® yellow topped swab.**

### Stock replacement

- The process of stock replacement will commence from February 2020.
- During the transition from the current swabs to Sigma Transwab®, either type can be used for specimen collection.
- If you require stock, please fax the Supplies Order Form to (03) 9326 3323.

### Swab guide

- Overleaf you will find a guide to the new range of swabs and the indications for using each one.

For further collection information, see our Test Collection Manual on our website, [www.mps.com.au](http://www.mps.com.au).