

STI Sample Collection Guidance

Accurate results begin with the specimen.

Understanding the Impact of Carbomer-Containing Products

Sample collection is a critical part of the diagnostic testing journey. With urogenital specimens used for sexually transmitted infections (STI) testing, the presence of interfering substances that potentially impact nucleic acid amplification (molecular) results can be quite common.

BayCare Labs has moved to the latest version of molecular testing to the cobas® 6800 system, which has increased sensitivity. Care needs to be taken with certain products potentially used by patients, as well as products used in the process of sample collection. Similar to PAP test collection, urogenital specimens from patients who have used carbomer-containing products

may generate invalid or false negative results. In addition, products containing carbomer(s) used to lubricate a speculum, including vaginal lubricants, creams and gels, may interfere with the test and shouldn't be used during or prior to collecting urogenital specimens.

Lubricants and Feminine Hygiene Products

The products below have been reviewed for carbomer content and the effect on cobas STI assays on the cobas 6800 systems. This list represents a sample of lubricants and feminine hygiene products available in the market. Not all available products have been tested and reviewed, due to frequent product changes. It's important to review the ingredients in products used at your facility.

CARBOMER-FREE PRODUCTS	CARBOMER-CONTAINING PRODUCTS
LUBRICANTS	
HR Lubricating Jelly	DynaLube Lubricating Jelly
KY Jelly	McKesson Lubricating Jelly
Surgilube Surgical Lubricating Jelly	Cardinal Health Lubricating Jelly
	Medline Lubricating Jelly
FEMININE HYGIENE	
Conceptrol Contraceptive Gel	RepHresh Clean Balance
Labicam Anti-Fungal	RepHresh Vaginal Gel Prefilled
Lavena Moisturizer	Vagisil Anti-Itch Cream
Monistat 1	Vagisil Crème Regular Strength
Terrasil Ointment Plus Cleansing Bar	Vagisil ProHydrate
VCF Contraceptive Foam	Vagisil Sensitive Cream
Walgreens Clotrimazole 3	IsoLove Balancing Gel
Walgreens Clotrimazole Vaginal Cream	Replens Long-Lasting Vaginal Moisturizer
	Metronidazole Vaginal Gel

Minimize the Risk of Invalid Test Results

- When performing a pelvic exam, refrain from using carbomer-containing products to lubricate a speculum as part of the collection procedure or collect the sample prior to using lubricant.
- Ask patients to stop using feminine hygiene products for approximately 24 hours before their scheduled visit.
- If your patient is known to be using feminine hygiene products at the time of collection, an alternative non-vaginal swab sample type may be considered.

For more information or to
schedule an appointment:
(800) 324-7853

