

Vaginal Swab Specimen Collection

Aptima® Multitest Swab Specimen Collection Kit — Instructions for Patient-Collected Specimens

Patient Information Regarding Self-Collected Specimens

- A self-collected swab is one way to test for sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Other options are available. If you have questions about the self-collected swab, other sample collection options, or about STIs, consult your health-care provider.
- Self-collection is an option in clinical settings if you agree to perform the procedure. Counseling from your health-care provider is available for the self-collection procedure.
- Carefully read the swab self-collection instructions below. If you feel you can perform this self-collection procedure and wish to use this method of testing for STIs, inform your health-care provider.
- Do not take the collection kit or your self-collected specimen out of the clinic.
- Some self-collected specimen types are not available with all assays. Refer to the appropriate assay package insert for appropriate specimen types.

General Instructions for All Collection Methods

1. Wash your hands before starting.
2. In the privacy of the examination room or restroom, undress as necessary. Position yourself comfortably to maintain balance during the collection procedure.
3. Open the kit package. Remove the swab and the tube. Set the tube aside before beginning the collection steps.

WARNING:

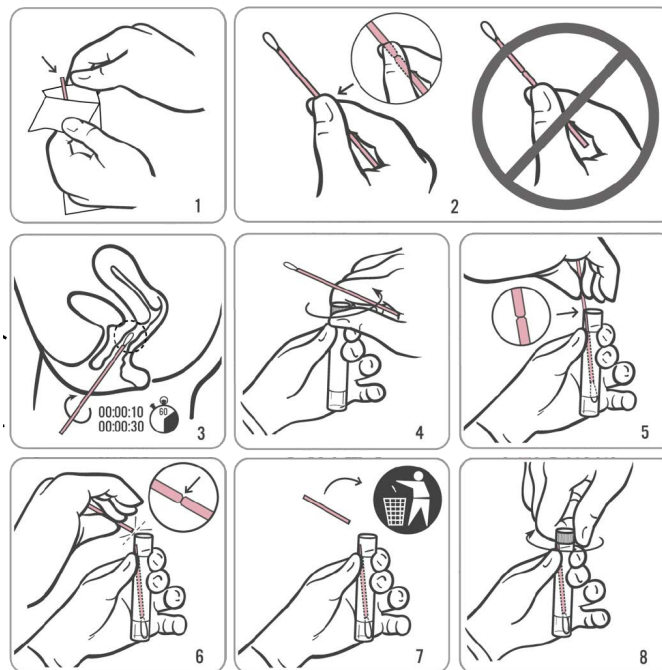
If the contents of the tube are spilled on your skin, wash the area with soap and water. If splashed in your eyes, immediately flush with water and notify your health-care provider if irritation develops. If spilled, request a new Aptima Multitest Swab Specimen Collection Kit.

Vaginal Swab Specimen Collection — Step-by-Step

1. Partially peel open the swab package. Remove the swab. Do not touch the soft tip or lay the swab down. If the tip is touched, the swab is laid down, or dropped, request a new kit.
2. Hold the swab, placing your thumb and forefinger in the middle of the swab shaft, covering the score line. Do not hold the shaft below the score line.
3. Carefully insert the swab about 2 inches (5 cm) inside the opening of the vagina and gently rotate the swab clockwise for 10 to 30 seconds. Make sure the swab touches the vaginal walls so moisture is absorbed, then withdraw without touching the skin.
4. While holding the swab in the same hand, unscrew the cap from the tube. Do not spill the contents. If spilled, request a new kit.
5. Immediately place the swab into the transport tube so the score line is at the top of the tube.
6. Carefully break the swab shaft at the score line against the side of the tube.
7. Immediately discard the top portion of the swab shaft.
8. Tightly screw the cap onto the tube. Return the tube as instructed by your health-care provider. Make sure the tube is labeled with your name and date of birth.

Important Information to Consider

- IF YOU ARE PREGNANT, PLEASE INFORM YOUR HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER.
- Before you collect a vaginal swab specimen, inform your health-care provider if you have recent pelvic pain, pain with sexual intercourse, or unusual vaginal discharge or bad odor — these symptoms can be due to pelvic inflammatory disease (PID). Prompt diagnosis and treatment of PID can help prevent infertility and ectopic pregnancy associated with PID.



Questions? Ask your provider or care team.