

## Important information: Changes to collection devices

With the availability of liquid Amies swabs, one swab type can now be used for both PCR and MCS. As these new swabs are suitable for both test systems, we expect that they will reduce the likelihood that a recollection is needed because of collection with an incorrect swab type.

As we transition to a simpler swab system, you may still have stock of the previously available swabs. We will continue to accept samples collected with these swabs.

### General tips

- Check expiry date of swabs before collection.
- One anatomical site per collection device (except for respiratory viruses, when both an NPS and a throat swab are required).
- Label swabs with patient's full name, date of birth, collection site(s), and time and date of collection.
- Ensure the lid is firmly placed/screwed on all collection devices containing specimens.
- Do not refrigerate swab specimens.

OLD	NEW
<b>Respiratory PCR: bacterial (e.g. pertussis and mycoplasma), viral (e.g. influenza)</b>	
 <p>Plain dry swab (black top) (Item 32922)</p> <p>Flocked (NPS) swab (orange top) (Item 24132)</p>	 <p>Sigma Transwab® liquid Amies dual swab kit (purple top) (Item 55626)</p>
<b>Microbial PCR: (e.g. HSV, VZV and syphilis; all other sites)</b>	
 <p>Plain dry swab (black top) (Item 32922)</p>	 <p>Sigma Transwab® liquid Amies single swab (orange top) (Item 55625)</p>
<b>Bacterial, fungal culture (MCS)</b>	
 <p>Gel Amies swab (blue top) (Item 11346)</p> <p>Gel Amies with wire swab (orange top) (Item 24081)</p>	 <p>Sigma Transwab® liquid Amies single swab (orange top) (Item 55625)</p> <p>If a thin tip swab is required, use thin swab from the Sigma Transwab® liquid Amies dual swab kit (purple top, Item 55626).</p>
<b>Chlamydia trachomatis/Neisseria gonorrhoeae PCR</b>	
 <p>Chlamydia collection kit (red top) (Item 34209)</p>	 <p>Chlamydia trachomatis/Neisseria gonorrhoeae Cobas® PCR media dual swab kit (Item 46047)</p>



## Cancer Council National Cervical Screening Program guidelines

The Cancer Council's National Cervical Screening Program guidelines can be sourced from the Sullivan Nicolaides Pathology website.

These provide comprehensive evidence-based information on clinical practice for the management of screen-detected abnormalities, screening in specific populations, and investigation of abnormal vaginal bleeding.

The guidelines are published on a wiki platform. Unlike written guidelines, wiki-based guidelines are constantly updated as new evidence becomes available and are linked to source abstracts and other evidence-based sites.

On our website ([snp.com.au](http://snp.com.au)) navigate to 'Clinicians' and then click on 'Cervical screening for doctors'. [National cervical Screening Program: Guidelines for cervical cancer screening](#) is listed under 'Resources'.

## Reminder to return Surgical Skin Cancer and CST audit evaluation forms

This is a reminder to our doctors participating in the Sullivan Nicolaides Pathology Surgical Skin Cancer and

CST audits that final interval evaluation forms must be returned by October so they can be processed and the relevant colleges notified. We urge you to return them as soon as possible so that your CPD points can be awarded.

The final interval report for the Surgical Skin Cancer Audit that will contribute to an audit in this triennium will be ready by the end of September. A report will also be issued for the October to December interval, which will enable you to continue to review your outcomes.

All doctors who have participated in the audits in this triennium will be automatically registered for the new triennium.

Please contact your Medical Liaison Manager (P: 1300 767 284 E: [education@snp.com.au](mailto:education@snp.com.au)) for any assistance.

## HPV self-collected test: Update

- We are undergoing accreditation for self-collected HPV testing.
- This will reduce turnaround times.
- We ask our referring doctors to provide us with two self-collected samples per patient so that one of them can be used in our validation process.

Sullivan Nicolaides Pathology is validating its testing process for accreditation for self-collected HPV samples. At present, self-collected HPV samples are being sent to our partner laboratory, Douglass Hanly Moir, in Sydney. Conducting these tests in Brisbane will reduce turnaround times.

The introduction of a self-collected HPV test is an important new component of the National Cervical Screening Program. While only offered to a limited number of women meeting strict funding criteria, the self-collected HPV test is intended to increase program participation by offering an acceptable alternative to those women who previously, for various reasons, have not felt comfortable to take part in this important women's health program.

**We would like our doctors to please ask patients to collect two HPV samples so that one can be used to validate our testing process.**

### How to collect:

The patient must collect the sample in the surgery or healthcare clinic using a red-topped Copan dry FLOQ swab. The swab should be immediately returned to the clinician for referral to the testing laboratory.



CST/HPV self-collect Copan FLOQSwabs™ (red top) (Item 24159)

### Further information:

Patient instructions for self-collection can be found on our website: [snp.com.au](http://snp.com.au).

Navigate to 'Clinicians' and then click on 'Cervical screening for doctors'. The 'Self-collect CST/HPV Patient Collection Note' is listed under 'Resources'.

Patient instruction sheets are also available from your Medical Liaison Manager or on the website at <https://www.snp.com.au/media/Multisite8196/cst-patient-self-collect-test-information-sheet-2-swabs-2019-04.pdf>

## Patient test collection notes

### Updated and new instructions

SNP provides collection notes to assist patients to prepare for pathology collections. These notes can be supplied to your clinic as a full set and re-ordered using the pathology stores request form. Collection notes can also be downloaded from the patient section of our website ([snp.com.au](http://snp.com.au)) by clicking on the print icon of the relevant instructions (top right-hand corner).

Updates have been made to these notes:

- Therapeutic drug tests – Item 34177
- Faeces *Helicobacter Pylori* – Item 34047 (information has been added about the importance of avoiding laxatives before the test)

For more information, or a list of the latest notes and versions, please contact your Medical Liaison Manager (P: 1300 767 284 E: [education@snp.com.au](mailto:education@snp.com.au)).