

## Handling of Gynaecologic Cytology Samples

### Clinician information

Hologic Thin-Prep Liquid based cytology is the only acceptable format for Gynaecologic samples.

Be aware that conventional smear preparations have been phased out and the Screeners are no longer trained to read these preparations; therefore they cannot be accepted.

We ask that you fully complete the request form. Details of previous smear history and treatment are helpful.

### Laboratory processing

Cervical smears received at CPS are referred to a CPA-accredited laboratory for processing and preliminary screening

(as per NHS cervical screening programme guidelines) and then returned for in-house reporting and issuing of result. All cervical smears are examined and reported by a Consultant Pathologist.

### Turnaround times

CPS monitors turnaround time for gynaecologic cytology specimens as one of its KPI.

### Additional testing

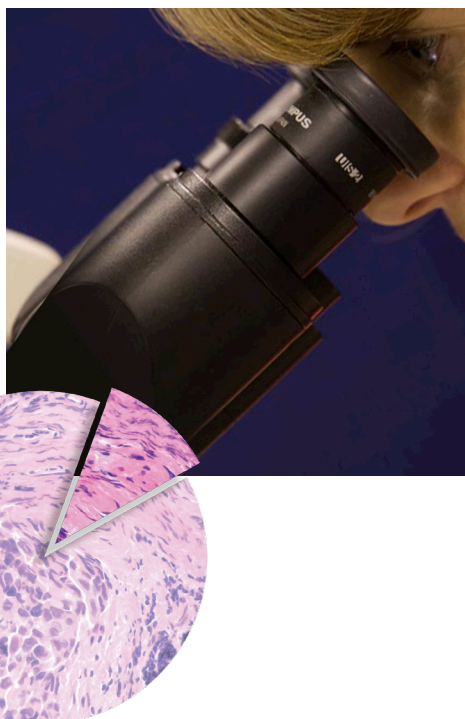
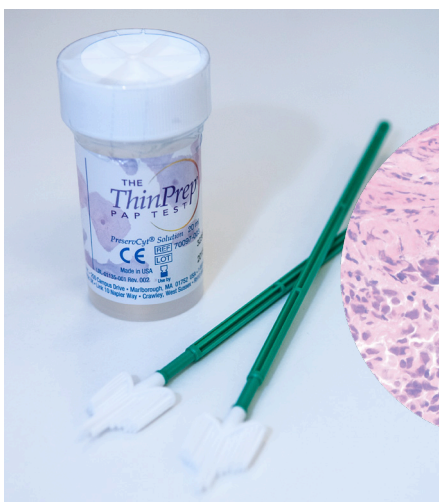
The HPV test and other tests for infectious agents can be performed on the Thin-Prep vial using a PCR platform. Additional swabs are not necessary.

The following additional tests can be performed on the Thin-Prep vial.

- Routine collective HPV testing
- 20 HPV DNA subtypes
- HPV20 with reflex mRNA for E6/E7 oncoprotein expression
- Chlamydia PCR
- Gonorrhoea PCR
- Sexual Health Screening by PCR testing (Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea, Mycoplasma, Ureaplasma, Gardnerella, Trichomonas & HSVI/II)

The laboratory may also receive swabs for HVS or chlamydia. These tests are referred on to a CPA-accredited laboratory for assessment.

The results are scanned into our report format and indicate that they have been issued by the referral laboratory. The date of the original report would be clearly stated in our report.



For further information please contact us on:

**01923 233 299**  
Out of hours: **07775 44 66 88**

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[info@cellpathservices.co.uk](mailto:info@cellpathservices.co.uk)



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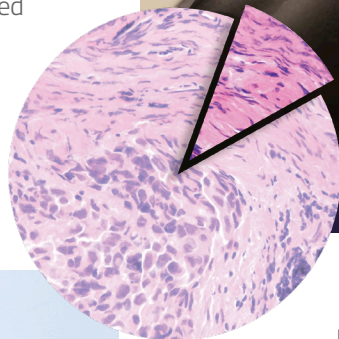
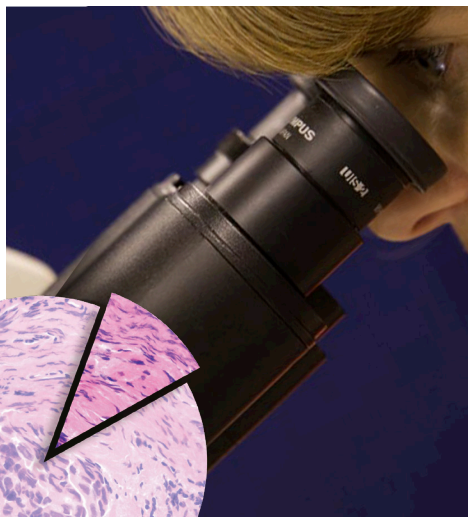
### HPV triage & test of cure

HPV triage has been introduced into the NHS cervical screening programme (NHSCSP) to assist in the management of smears in which a low grade abnormality is found (borderline changes or mild dyskaryosis).

HPV triage is based on studies indicating that if high risk HPV DNA types are not detected, the woman is highly unlikely to have significant disease and can be reassured and rapidly returned to normal recall.

NHSCSP guidelines advise that women in whom High Risk-HPV DNA is detected should be referred on to

colposcopy. The HPV triage involves the reporting of high risk HPV types including HPV16, HPV18 and a further 12 pooled high risk HPV types.



HPV triage can also be applied to the "test of cure"

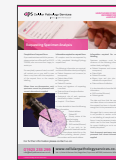
Thin-Prep samples (i.e. 1st smear taken following treatment of CIN). NHSCSP guidelines advise a 36 month follow up smear if the smear is reported as negative or if a low grade abnormality is found and High Risk-HPV DNA is not detected.

You may, of course, at your clinical discretion decide to follow up your patient at a more frequent interval.



### Other useful leaflets

In addition to this healthcare staff information leaflet we also have:



Requesting Specimen Analysis



Handling of Histological Samples



Handling of Diagnostic Cytology Samples



Handling of Gynaecologic Cytology Samples



Requesting Consumables



Specimen Packaging & Transportation

To see our full range of Healthcare Information leaflets visit our website.

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