

# Conventional Pap Smear Collection

---

**Synonyms:** Pap smear

**Unit Code:** 700, 701, 702

**Methodology:** Pap smears with primary screening by Cytotechnologist and/or Pathologist, when indicated.

**Performed:** Monday-Friday, excluding legal and national holidays.

**Turnaround Time:** Routine: <7 working days, STAT; as required

**Collection and Transportation:** In general, the ideal time to perform a pap smear is greater than twelve days after the last menstrual period and twenty-four hours or more after douching. The proper technique for a pap using the scrape and cytobrush and/or swab is as follows:

- If on visual inspection, the cervix is coated with excessive mucus, inflammatory debris, blood, or other contaminants – lightly dabbing the surface with a saline moisten 4x4 or swab to remove obscuring substances that will make the smear unsatisfactory for interpretation without disturbing the surface epithelium.
- Take the cervical scraping and place it mounded up on the glass slide away from the frosted end. Collect the cytobrush or swab specimen and in a sweeping rolling motion – taking up the mounded up scrape specimen – spread the combined specimens uniformly over the length of the slide, up to the frosted edge. **The slide must then be immediately, sprayed with a pap fixative.** The importance of immediate and generous fixation with pap fixative cannot be overstated. The smear should be left on a level surface (not at an angle) and allowed to dry.

If an accurate hormonal assessment is necessary (MI) then a lateral vaginal wall scraping should be submitted separately.

- Avoid KY Jelly lubricant.
- Collect cell sample from cervix and endocervical canal respectively with spatula and endocervical brush.
- Apply the sample onto the labeled glass slide as stated above and spray immediately with cytology fixative to avoid air-drying artifacts. To avoid problems **use only cytology fixatives.**

---

## Doctors Laboratory, Inc.

**Phone:** (800) 342-7552 Ext 2241

(229) 671-2241

**Fax:** (229) 671-2219

2906 Julia Drive  
Valdosta, GA 31604

**WEB SITE:** [www.doctorslaboratory.com](http://www.doctorslaboratory.com)



# Conventional Pap Smear Collection

---

- Send the smear to the laboratory in a protective slide holder along with the matched requisition properly inserted in biohazard bag.
- The laboratory will proceed with the staining, screening, and review by a cytotechnologist and/or pathologist according to established guidelines.
- Please do not place the mucus plug on the pap slide as this interferes with staining and obscures important cellular detail.

## Special Instruction:

The requisition should be properly filled out with the following information included:

- Patient's complete name on requisition, slide, and pap folder.
- Patient's age, date of birth, and date of last menstrual period (LMP).
- ICD-9 codes and pertinent clinical information such as: cervical lesion, or suspicious for Herpes, known diagnosis such as: previous abnormal pap smear or biopsy, and relevant treatment such as: cryosurgery, chemotherapy or radiation.
- Special circumstances include: pregnancy, post partum, menopause, hormone replacement, or birth control.

## Causes for rejection of specimen or limited reports:

- Incomplete and/or improper labeling
- Insufficient pertinent clinical history
- Specimen not fixed on slide immediately
- Obscuring inflammation, debris, or excessive air drying
- A broken slide will be rejected and discarded as a biohazard.
- Always record if a cytobrush was used to obtain the Pap smear. Failing to record the use of a cytobrush may result in erroneous atypical results for the patient.

**Remember:** The more information you give the laboratory, the better we can serve you and your patients.

**CPT Code:** 88164 with possible 88141

**Significance and Interpretation:** Detection of pre-cancerous and cancerous cells on the cervix, endocervix; and sometimes endometrial abnormalities. Rarely extrauterine malignancies can be detected. Certain types of infectious organisms can be identified.

---

## Doctors Laboratory, Inc.

**Phone:** (800) 342-7552 Ext 2241

(229) 671-2241

**Fax:** (229) 671-2219

2906 Julia Drive  
Valdosta, GA 31604

**WEB SITE:** [www.doctorslaboratory.com](http://www.doctorslaboratory.com)

