

# Cervical Skills

## Unsatisfactory Cervical Screening Tests Practitioner Information Leaflet

Unsatisfactory Cervical Screening Tests are a **concern** as highlighted on the ThinPrep website.

[http://www.thinprep.com/hcp/primary\\_screening/managing\\_unsatisfactory\\_results.html](http://www.thinprep.com/hcp/primary_screening/managing_unsatisfactory_results.html)

The following advice is given in order to reduce the % of unsatisfactory cervical screening tests being reported - these points are covered at every cervical skills training event facilitated by the Practice Nurse Support & Development Team.

1. Make sure ThinPrep pot has not expired. **If the laboratory receives a sample in a vial that has expired they are automatically reported as rejected so please ensure that your LBC vials (ThinPrep pot) are not out of date. NB Date is in the American format**
2. **Avoid using lubricant** if at all possible. Try rinsing speculum in warm water. If lubricant required only use a **minimal amount** to the shaft of the speculum and not the tip. Lubricants must be water soluble ie: KY Jelly or Aquagel.
3. Ensure good lighting and **only take smear if cervix is visualised**
4. Use correct broom as supplied
5. Rotate **clockwise** 360 degrees **5 times**
6. **Immediately** immerse the specimen in ThinPrep Pot
7. Push the broom to the bottom of the pot 10 times forcing the bristles to bend apart
8. Swirl the broom vigorously to release additional cellular material
9. Close pot lid so that **black lid marks line up**
10. Label pot with **SCRSS** label, **one** sample per specimen bag, **no** sellotape or staples on specimen bag
11. All cytology samples to be placed in **white** cytology collection bag with completed signed despatch form.



Please watch the following video and reflect on your technique.

[http://www.thinprep.com/hcp/specimen\\_collection/view\\_video.html](http://www.thinprep.com/hcp/specimen_collection/view_video.html)

Practice Nurse Support & Development Team, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

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**When a repeat smear is required please wait 3 months before repeating the test...why?**

This is because the evidence<sup>1</sup> shows that the cervical epithelium needs at least three months to regenerate after a cervical screening test

Reference: <sup>1</sup>European guidelines for the quality assurance in cervical cancer screening: recommendations for clinical management of abnormal cervical cytology, part 1 Cytopathology 2008, 19, 342-35