



# Eastside Pathology, Inc., P.S. Specimen Collection Manual

For More Information Please Call us at 425.646.0922

## **SUREPATH PAP SPECIMEN**

### *Collection and Submission*

Eastside Pathology offers three services for pap smear specimens. First is the conventional smear, collected and smeared onto the glass slide by the clinician. The second method is the liquid-based ThinPrep collection method in which the physician collects the sample, rinses it into a vial of collection fluid and submits this vial to the laboratory for processing. The third is the SurePath collection method which is similar to the ThinPrep collection except that the clinician leaves the collection device in the collection vial. All processes are available in-house and yield comparable turn-around-times. Advantages for using the ThinPrep and SurePath method include the ability to perform HPV DNA testing for high risk HPV DNA typing as well as Chlamydia, Gonorrhea and Herpes I and II testing.

### **PATIENT PREPARATION**

- For best results, specimens should be taken at mid-cycle (between day 12 and 18) although this is not essential. Specimens should never be taken during active menstruation.
- Patients should be instructed to refrain from intercourse, douching and the use of intravaginal medications for 48 hours prior to examination.

### **COLLECTING THE SUREPATH PAP SPECIMEN**

1. Insert an unlubricated speculum. Tap water or a small amount of normal saline may be used to moisten the speculum.
2. Using a cotton swab, gently remove any visible exudate from the surface of the cervix. Please do not use any acetic acid dilution.

#### Broom Collection Device

- a. Using a broom-like device, insert the central bristles deep enough into the endocervical canal so that the outer bristles fully contact the ectocervix. Push gently and rotate 5 times.
- b. Place the head of the sampling devices into the SurePath media and visually locate the notched score line on the side of the collection device handle. With one single, quick and firm SNAP, separate the head from the handle. **THE SAMPLING DEVICE MUST REMAIN IN THE COLLECTION MEDIA**

#### Brush/Spatula Collection Device

- a. Using the contoured end of the plastic spatula, rotate 360° around entire exocervix, maintaining tight contact with exocervical cervix.
- b. Place the head of the sampling devices into the SurePath media and visually locate the notched score line on the side of the collection device handle. With one single, quick and firm SNAP, separate the head from the handle. **THE SAMPLING DEVICE MUST REMAIN IN THE COLLECTION MEDIA.**
- c. Insert Cytobrush Plus GT device into cervix so that only the bottom most bristles are exposed. Slowly rotate ¼ to ½ turn in one direction. **DO NOT** over rotate, as this may cause excessive bleeding and contaminate the specimen.

- d. Place the head of the sampling devices into the SurePath media and visually locate the notched score line on the side of the collection device handle. With one single, quick and firm SNAP, separate the head from the handle. **THE SAMPLING DEVICE MUST REMAIN IN THE COLLECTION MEDIA.**

*For All Samples*

3. Cap the vial and label with patient name and requisition number.
4. Complete the requisition, including the following patient information:
  - a. Test ordered
  - b. Patient name, date of birth, age, address and insurance information
  - c. Physicians name
  - d. Date of examination
  - e. Patients social security number
  - f. Last menstrual period or other pertinent menstrual information
  - g. Any other pertinent Gyn information or observations
  - h. Number of vials sent
  - i. History of abnormal Gyn cytology or histology
5. Place the vial inside a biohazard bag and the requisition into the side pouch.

Updated June 20, 2008