



6 INSTRUCTIONS FOR TRANSPORTATION OF SPECIMENS

Cervical Screening Specimens

Hologic ThinPrep LBC is the method of cervical cell sample collection and preparation. Samples are collected using a Cervex brush. The head of the brush is rinsed into a vial of ThinPrep preservative fluid so that all of the cervical cells are retained in the vial. All cervical screening samples are transported to the laboratory where they are tested for high risk Human Papilloma Virus (hrHPV) as the primary test. If hrHPV is detected a cytology sample is prepared from the vial where a thin layer of cervical cells is deposited on a glass slide, which is then stained and examined microscopically.

- Cervical cytology specimens must be transferred from the sampling device into the Hologic ThinPrep vial using “smash and bash technique”. The sampling device **must not** be retained in the vial. The lid must be tightened to the black torque line and checked to ensure no leakage.
- The container must be fully labelled as detailed in Section 6. The sample containers are placed in clear plastic specimen bags and sealed, and the accompanying request form placed in the side pocket separate from the specimen. It **must not** be stapled to the bag.
- The specimens can then be placed in the pink Cytology Specimen transport bags ready for delivery to the laboratory and the Cytology tracking form must be completed, samples counted and the tracking form placed into the pink transport bag before sealing.
- The laboratory has arrangements in place for collection of samples from hospitals and clinics and practices.
- If on QEH site the samples are transported to the laboratory via the hospital portering service.