

TriCore Reference Laboratories is committed to working in partnership with you to provide the most accurate testing possible for the collection and screening of Pap specimens. Keeping pace with changes in the field of cervicovaginal screening, TriCore offers two FDA-approved tests to screen and detect cervical cancer, precancerous lesions, and atypical cells. To help you decide whether ThinPrep® or SurePath™ is most the appropriate test for your patients, please review the information below.

### DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THINPREP® AND SUREPATH™ PAP SMEAR COLLECTIONS

#### *ThinPrep®*

- Testing for Pap, HPV, and STD (gonorrhea and chlamydia) can all be performed using a single ThinPrep® vial.
- TriCore's unsatisfactory rates for ThinPrep® specimens average between 3% and 5%.
- 59.7% higher HSIL+ detection compared to conventional Paps.
- FDA-approved Hologic collection media for use with all FDA-approved HPV tests.
- Carbomer-free lubricants are the only approved lubricants for use with ThinPrep® specimen collection. Use of unapproved lubricants increases the probability of an unsatisfactory diagnosis in ThinPrep® specimens.
- Collection device head **should not be broken off in the vial** as that increases the probability of an unsatisfactory diagnosis in ThinPrep® specimens.

#### *SurePath™*

- Testing for Pap and HPV can be performed with a single SurePath™ vial. An Aptima® swab for gonorrhea and chlamydia testing must be collected at the same time as the Pap when STD co-testing is ordered.
- TriCore's unsatisfactory rates for SurePath™ specimens average below 0.5%.
- 64.4% increase in HSIL+ detection compared to conventional Paps.
- FDA-approved Roche cobas® HPV testing for use with BD SurePath™ media.
- There are no lubricant restrictions for SurePath™ specimen collection.
- Collection device head **should be broken off in the vial**. SurePath™ is designed so that there is no loss of diagnostic material and specimen processing works best with the device head present. The new SurePath™ vial's internal ledge enables easier removal of the collection device head.

#### *Both ThinPrep® and SurePath™*

- Computer-assisted imaging increases sensitivity and specificity over manually reviewed Pap slides. In addition to computer-assisted imaging, TriCore's cytotechnologists manually screen 100% of Pap slides.
- Closed system lab processing enhances chain of custody controls.

#### *Vial Procedures*

A few pre-analytic procedures that will contribute to successful testing:

- One label per vial.
- Label should lay flat, not extending beyond the vial nor impeding the vial lid.
- Labels without barcodes are preferred.
- Remove or keep the brush in the vial, as appropriate for the test you choose.

Please consult TriCore's Test Directory at [TriCore.org](http://TriCore.org) for complete sample collection and transportation guidelines. If there are questions, please contact Rachael Gregory, Cytology Technical Supervisor, at 505-938-8067 or [rachael.gregory@tricore.org](mailto:rachael.gregory@tricore.org).