

# Guidelines for Fetal Fibronectin Specimen Collection

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Collect specimen prior to digital examination or manipulation of the cervix to avoid sample contamination.



1

During speculum examination, lightly rotate swab across posterior fornix of the vagina for 10 seconds to absorb cervicovaginal secretions.



2

Remove swab and immerse polyester tip in buffer; break shaft at score even with top of tube.



3

Align the shaft with hole inside the tube cap and push down tightly over shaft, sealing tube; ensure shaft is aligned to avoid leakage. **Send fetal fibronectin sample to a lab near you.**

## For accurate results, be sure to follow these instructions and see package insert.

### Gestational age collection window:

- Symptomatic patients: 24<sup>0</sup> weeks - 34<sup>6</sup> weeks
- Asymptomatic patients: 22<sup>0</sup> weeks - 30<sup>6</sup> weeks

### Specimens should be collected prior to:

- Digital cervical exam
- Collection of culture specimens
- Vaginal probe ultrasound exams

### Do not contaminate swab or specimen with:

- Lubricants
- Soaps
- Disinfectants
- Creams

### Do not test if patient has:

- Moderate or gross vaginal bleeding
- Advanced cervical dilation (3 centimeters or greater)
- Rupture of membranes
- Suspected or known placental abruption or placenta previa

### If patient has had sex in the prior 24 hours:

- A negative result is still valid.
- A positive result may not be valid and should be confirmed >24 hours.

Hologic provides this collection procedure guide as a general informational tool only; it is not an affirmative instruction or guarantee of performance. It is the sole responsibility of medical professionals to read and understand the appropriate package insert and comply with applicable local, state and federal rules and regulations.

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