

Anatomic Pathology Service - Test Guide

Anatomic Pathology Service (APS) provides community histology, cytology, HPV primary screening and ThinPrep® cervical cytology services for the greater Auckland region. Testing not performed at our laboratory in Mt Wellington is sent to the Auckland reference laboratory LabPLUS at Auckland City Hospital.

COLLECTION SERVICE AND COURIER PICK UPS

- Patients can drop off cytology sputum and cytology urine samples to any Awanui collection centre.
- When samples collected at your clinic or practice require payment, please collect payment from the patient and write 'Charge to Practice' on the request form. APS will send your Practice a one off invoice. APS is able to send the patient an invoice, but the patient's email address and contact phone number must be provided on the request form, write 'Charge to Patient' on the form and inform the patient of the cost. **Phone 302 0516 for current test prices.**
- Awanui couriers collect APS histology and cytology samples, including vaginal swab samples for HPV testing, from practices and clinics, either at a regular scheduled time or 'on request'.
- Place histology and cytology samples for APS into the blue APS specimen pick up box.
- Phone APS on **302 0516** if a specimen pick up is required outside your regular scheduled time/day.

SPECIMEN LABELLING

Specimen containers should be labelled immediately after sample collection and, if possible, in front of the patient. A **minimum** of two patient identifiers that match on both request form and container label are required:

- **Patient Family Name & First Name**
 - **Patient NHI number and / or DOB**
- as well as **'Date' & 'Time' of sample collection.**

Histology sample labels must have all of the above, plus:

- **Doctor/Surgeon name**
- **Type of sample or site sample taken from.**

CYTOLOGY

The APS Cytology Department processes non-gynaecological and gynaecological samples (including vaginal swabs for HPV testing). Please phone APS on **302 0516** if you have any queries.

Gynaecological Samples

- APS processes ThinPrep® cervical samples and vaginal swab samples for HPV testing as per the Ministry of Health requirements, with all results entered automatically into the National Cervical Screening Programme (NCSP) register, unless the participant withdraws from the register.
- A vaginal swab can be self-collected by patients and is used for HPV testing.
- ThinPrep® is a liquid based method required for cervical samples and can be used for both HPV testing and cytology (if indicated by Cervical screening pathway or as a co-test in patients with relevant symptoms; refer to NCSP Clinical Practice Guidelines).
- These tests are funded for some groups as per NCSP guidelines.
- Refer to 'HPV and Cytology for Cervical Screening' on LabPLUS Test Guide for HPV PCR Assay details.

Sample Collection

Vaginal swab

- Refer to swab collection instructions provided by the laboratory.

ThinPrep® cervical sample

- Take the sample using the most clinically appropriate device, then vigorously rinse the device in the PreservCyt solution vial by swirling ten times or pushing the device up against the vial wall.
- Discard the device and tighten the vial cap firmly to ensure no leakage – the lines on the cap and the vial should meet or slightly overlap.
- Place the sample into a biohazard bag with the completed request form in the side pocket.

Non-Gynaecological Samples

Most fluid samples, such as bronchial specimens, serous or cyst fluids should be received by the cytology laboratory on the same day. If you collect the sample after your last courier collect for the day, or on a Friday afternoon, please phone APS on **302 0516** for instructions.

Fine Needle Aspirate (FNA)

On Site at Mt Wellington:

APS operates an adult clinic (16 years and over), Monday to Thursday at the Awanui collection centre, 37 – 41 Carbine Road, Mt Wellington.

Phone **639 0212** or email: hsaps@adhb.govt.nz to make an appointment.

Off site at Clinics:

Prior consultation with the cytology laboratory is advised and every effort is made to provide technical and professional assistance, which includes assisting with the sample collection at the clinic.

Phone **639 0212** to make an appointment for a technologist to attend or for advice.

Sputum for Cytology

- Three early morning samples collected on three consecutive days is preferred.
- The sample must be from a deep cough, saliva is not suitable.
- Date and time of sample collection must be written on each container label.
- Each sample must be delivered to an Awanui collection centre as soon as possible following sample collection.

Urine for Cytology

- Three samples collected on three different days.
- A minimum of 50mL of urine is required and the sample must be mid-morning, not early morning.
- The samples must be delivered to an Awanui collection centre on the same day as collection.
- Refrigerate the samples if a delay in delivery is anticipated.

HISTOLOGY

Fresh Tissue Samples

Most histology samples are transported in pots containing 10% formalin, however, some histology samples need to be sent 'fresh' to the laboratory, i.e. not contained in formalin.

Any requests for special processing should be arranged by phoning the Histology Secretaries on **639 0212** with any queries.

Frozen Sections

Private hospitals and clinics regularly collecting a sample for a frozen section procedure are provided with specific site instructions for booking the procedure and sample transport.

Bookings are made by phoning APS Histology 639 0212.

Other Fresh Samples include

- Acetylcholinesterase
- Direct Immunofluorescence
- Disaccharides
- Enzyme assay
- Iron Studies in Tissue
- Lymph nodes for Lymphoma
- Imprints or Cell Marker studies (Histology only)
- Tissue for Culture and Histology
- Karyotyping / Cytogenetics
- Chromosomal Analysis

Please phone the APS Histology Department, 639 0212, to arrange transport to the Laboratory.

Tissue Management Service (Return of Body Parts/Tissue)

APS supports and has a professional responsibility to ensure the return of body parts and/or tissue to patients who wish to regain access, either for viewing or return. To contact Tissue Management email: apsrtp@adhb.govt.nz