



## Fetal Fibronectin Collection Instructions

FMH Laboratory  
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### Equipment Required:

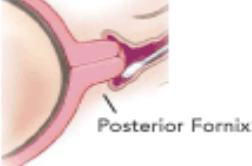


- Speculum
- Collection device (sterile polyester tipped swab and a specimen transport tube containing 1 ml extraction buffer)

### Before you Begin:

- Do not use kit if swab package integrity is compromised or if specimen transport tubes have leaked.
- Do not use Specimen Collection Devices past the expiration date.
- Use only one Specimen Collection Device per patient sample.
- Specimens for Fetal Fibronectin (fFN) testing should be collected prior to collection of culture specimens, digital cervical examination or vaginal probe ultrasound examination.
- Specimen should not be collected if the patient has had sexual intercourse within 24 hours prior to sampling.
- Care must be taken not to contaminate the swab or secretions with lubricants, soaps, disinfectants or creams (e.g. KY Jelly, Betadine, Monistat, hexachlorophene).
- fFN tests are not intended for use in women with:
  - Moderate or gross vaginal bleeding
  - Advanced cervical dilation (3cm or greater)
  - Rupture of membranes
  - Gestational age <22 weeks or >35 weeks
  - Suspected or known placental previa or placental abruption
  - Cervical clercage

### Specimen Collection Procedure

Step	Action
1	Have patient in dorsal lithotomy position. Insert speculum.
2	Take the extraction vial by its cap and shake well to ensure all liquid in the vial has dropped on the bottom.
3	Open the extraction vial and place in a vertical position.
4	Remove the sterile polyester vaginal swab from the packaging.

	<i>Note: See instructions provided on the swab package.</i>
5	Hold the swab in the middle of the stick. <i>Note: Do not touch the swab to anything prior to insertion into the vagina.</i>
6	During speculum examination, prior to any examination or manipulation of the cervix or vaginal tract, lightly rotate the sterile swab across the posterior fornix of the vagina for approximately 10 second. 
7	Place the polyester tip of the swab into the extraction vial.
8	Break the shaft, even with the top of the tube. Dispose of broken shaft. 
9	Align the shaft with the hole inside the tube cap and push down tightly over the shaft sealing the tube. 
10	Properly label the solvent vial with proper patient identification, including the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name</li> <li>• MRN or DOB</li> <li>• Date/time of collection</li> <li>• Collector initials</li> </ul>
11	Order "FFN" in Powerchart or send requisition with specimen.
12	IMMEDIATELY transport, at room temperature, to the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital Main Laboratory for analysis.

References:

[http://www.ffntest.com/hcp/testing/specimen\\_collection.html](http://www.ffntest.com/hcp/testing/specimen_collection.html)

Rapid fFN for the TLiQ System, Specimen Collection Kit, Hologic, Inc, Sunnyvale, CA, MAN-01484-001 Rev. 001