
Lab Dept: **Anatomic Pathology**

Test Name: **THINPREP PAP SCREEN**

General Information

Lab Order Codes: PAPSC

Synonyms: Pap Smear ThinPrep; Liquid-based preparation Pap Smear, Gynecological

CPT Codes: 88142 - Cytopathology, cervical or vaginal, collected in preservative fluid, automated thin layer preparation; manual screening under physician supervision

88141- Cytopathology, cervical or vaginal, requiring physician interpretation, if appropriate

Test Includes: If ThinPrep Pap results are abnormal, a Mayo pathologist will review the case at an additional charge.

Logistics

Test indications: Screening for cervical carcinoma or intraepithelial lesions.

Specimen submitted as endocervical curettage or endocervical brushing need to be ordered as Mayo's *Cytology Non-Gynecologic, Varies* test.

Lab Testing Sections: Cytology - Sendouts

Referred to: Mayo Clinic Laboratories (Mayo Test: TPRPS)

Phone Numbers: MIN Lab: 612-813-6280

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

Test Availability: Daily, 24 hours

Turnaround Time: 5 - 8 days

Special Instructions: Provider will answer Ask-At-Order-Entry questions in the EHR regarding source, clinical history, menstrual status, and contraception/hormone therapy. These answers will interface with the Mayo ordering system.

For orders not entered electronically, the provider must complete a [Gyn-Cytology Patient Information Form \(Mayo T601\)](#) and send to lab with the specimen.

Specimen

Specimen Type:	Cervical/Endocervical
Container:	ThinPrep PreservCyt Media solution with Spatula and Brush Kit (Mayo Supply T434)
Draw Volume:	16 mL ThinPrep solution
Processed Volume:	Same as collection volume
Collection:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Obtain an adequate sampling from the ectocervix using a plastic spatula. If desired, use lukewarm to warm water and lubricate the speculum. Select contoured end of plastic spatula and rotate it 360 degrees around the entire exocervix while maintaining tight contact with exocervical surface. 2. Rinse spatulas quickly as possible into the PreservCyt solution vial by swirling spatula vigorously in vial 10 times. Discard the spatula. 3. Next, obtain an adequate specimen from endocervix using an endocervical brush device. Insert the brush into the cervix until only the bottommost fibers are exposed. Slowly rotate one-quarter or one-half turn in one direction. Do not over rotate. 4. Rinse the brush as quickly as possible in the PreservCyt solution by rotating the device in the solution 10 times while pushing against the PreservCyt vial wall. 5. Swirl brush vigorously as final step to further release material. Discard the brush. 6. Tighten the cap so that the torque line on the cap passes the torque line on the vial. 8. Bag ThinPrep specimens individually as they have a tendency to leak during transport.
Special Processing:	<p>Lab Staff: Ensure cap on vial is secure. Send only one patient's specimen per bag as vials have a tendency to leak. Forward promptly. Ship at ambient temperature.</p> <p>Specimen stable ambient (preferred) or refrigerated for 42 days. Specimens retained at reference lab for 14 days after report is issued.</p>
Patient Preparation:	For optimal interpretation, Pap smears should be collected near the middle of the menstrual cycle. Avoid douching, lubricant use, and sexual intercourse for 24 hours prior to specimen collection.
Sample Rejection:	Specimens not collected in ThinPrep media; specimen type other than indicated; unlabeled or mislabeled specimens; samples collected in expired media vials.

Interpretive

Reference Range: Satisfactory for evaluation. Negative for intraepithelial lesion or malignancy.

Note: Abnormal results will be reviewed by a pathologist at an additional charge.

Critical Values: N/A

Limitations: The Pap test is a screening test for cervical cancer with inherent false-negative results. A negative human papillomavirus (HPV) test or Pap smear result does not preclude the presence of carcinoma or intraepithelial lesion. The false-negative rates of the Pap test range from 15% to 30%.

Methodology: ThinPrep Pap Cytology Screening by Light Microscopy

References: [Mayo Clinic Laboratories](#) January 2025

Updates: 1/21/2025: Initial entry. Replaces obsolete test previously sent to ANW.