Fetal Fibronectin-Rapid

**Includes**
Qualitative detection of fetal fibronectin

**Collection**
Use Hologic rapid FFN specimen Collection Kit

**Collection:**
1. During a speculum examination, prior to any examination or manipulation of the cervix or the vaginal tract, lightly rotate the sterile swab across the posterior fornix of the vagina for approximately 10 seconds to absorb cervicovaginal secretions. Subsequent attempts to saturate the swab may invalidate the test.
2. Remove swab and immerse tip in buffer. Break the shaft (at the score) even with the top of the tube.
3. Align the shaft with the hole inside the tube cap and push down tightly over the shaft, sealing the tube. **Warning:** The shaft *must* be aligned to avoid leakage.
4. Write the patient’s name and other identifying information required on the specimen transport tube label.
5. Send the tube to the laboratory for testing. Transport specimens at 2°C to 25°C, or frozen.
6. **Specimens not tested within eight (8) hours of collection must be stored refrigerated at 2°C to 8°C and assayed within three (3) days of collection, or frozen and assayed within three (3) months to avoid degradation of the analyte. Do not expose to temperatures above 25°C.**

**Instructions**
1. Specimens for fetal fibronectin testing should be collected prior to collection of culture specimens.
2. Specimens should be obtained prior to digital cervical examination or vaginal probe ultrasound examination as manipulation of the cervix may cause the release of fetal fibronectin.
3. Specimens should not be tested if the patient has had sexual intercourse within 24 hours prior to the sampling time because semen and/or sperm present in the sample may increase the possibility of a false positive result.
4. Care must be taken not to contaminate the swab or cervicovaginal secretions with lubricants, soaps, disinfectants or creams (e.g., K-Y® Jelly lubricant, Betadine® disinfectant, Monistat® cream, hexachlorophene). These substances may interfere with absorption of the specimen by the swab or with the antibody-antigen reaction of Fetal Fibronectin tests.
5. Fetal Fibronectin tests are not intended for use in women with moderate or gross vaginal bleeding.
6. Rupture of membranes should be ruled out prior to specimen collection since fetal fibronectin is found in both amniotic fluid and the fetal membranes.
7. Specimens for fetal fibronectin testing should not be obtained from patients with suspected or known placental abruption or placenta previa.
8. Fetal Fibronectin tests are not intended for use in patients with cancers of the reproductive tract.
9. Assay interference from the following components has not been ruled out: douches, white blood cells, red blood cells, bacteria, and bilirubin.
10. Do not use the Specimen Collection Devices past the expiration date.
11. Use only one Specimen Collection Device per patient sample.
12. Care must be taken not to break the swab during specimen collection.
13. Specimens not tested within eight hours of collection must be stored refrigerated at 2°C to 8°C and assayed within three days of collection, or frozen and assayed within three months.