

Self-collection guide: penile swab

NO BOOKING REQUIRED



If collecting a sample at home, take it to a PathWest collection centre as soon as possible. If immediate delivery is not possible, store the sample at room temperature (not in the fridge or freezer) for up to 24 hours.



Scan for locations

How to collect your own sample

1. Collect a swab from your doctor or nearest PathWest collection centre and write your **full name, date of birth, date, time of collection** and **"Penile"** on the tube.
2. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water and dry them before collecting your sample.
3. Carefully open the swab package, do not touch the cotton tip of the swab, and find a comfortable position.
4. Gently squeeze the head of the penis and collect any fluid present with the cotton swab tip.
5. If a penile lesion swab is also required, this will need a separate swab to be used, and each site of collection must be labelled on the correct tube.
6. Place the container into the plastic bag provided and hand it to a PathWest collector if you are at the collection centre.

Disclaimer: This publication is for general education and informational purposes. Contact a qualified healthcare professional for any medical advice needed.
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