

STI sample collection guidance

Accurate results begin with the specimen

Understanding the impact of carbomer-containing products

Sample collection is a critical part of the diagnostic testing journey. With urogenital specimens used for STI testing, the presence of interfering substances that potentially impact NAAT results can be quite common, especially with recent advances in test sensitivity.

When moving to the latest STI portfolio assays on the **cobas®** 5800/6800/8800 Systems, care needs to be taken with certain products potentially used by patients as well as products used in the process of

sample collection. Similar to PAP test collection, urogenital specimens from patients who have used carbomer-containing products may generate invalid or false negative results. In addition, products containing carbomer(s) used to lubricate a speculum, including vaginal lubricants, creams and gels may interfere with the test and should not be used during or prior to collecting urogenital specimens.

The following products have been reviewed for carbomer content and the effect on **cobas®** STI assays on the **cobas®** 5800/6800/8800 Systems.

Carbomer-free (recommended)

LUBRICANTS*	
KY Jelly (Physician Formula)	HR Lubricating Jelly
Surgilube Surgical Lubricating Jelly	DynaLube Lubricating Jelly
	McKesson Lubricating Jelly
	Cardinal Health Lubricating Jelly
	Medline Lubricating Jelly
FEMININE HYGIENE*	
Conceptrol Contraceptive Gel	RepHresh Clean Balance
Labicam Anti-fungal	RepHresh Vaginal Gel Prefilled
Lavena Moisturizer	Vagisil Anti-itch Cream
Monistat 1	Vagisil Crème Regular Strength
Terrasil Ointment Plus Cleansing Bar	Vagisil ProHydrate
VCF Contraceptive Foam	Vagisil Sensitive Cream
Walgreens Clotrimazole 3	IsoLove Balancing Gel
Walgreens Clotrimazole Vaginal Cream	Replens Long-Lasting Vaginal Moisturizer
	Metronidazole Vaginal Gel

* This list represents a sample of lubricants and feminine hygiene products available in the market. Not all available products have been tested and reviewed as these change so frequently. Therefore, it is important to review the ingredients in products used at your facility.



To minimize the risk of invalid test results:

- Refrain from using carbomer-containing products to lubricate a speculum as part of the collection procedure, or collect sample prior to use of lubricant/performing pelvic exam.
- Ask patients to refrain from using feminine hygiene products for approximately 24 hours prior to their scheduled visit.
- If patient is known to be using feminine hygiene products at time of collection, an alternative non-vaginal swab sample type may be considered.

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