

Increasing the Rate of Satisfactory Paps



Corewell Health William Beaumont University Hospital

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01

REDUCING OBSCURRING FACTORS

Reducing obscuring factors:

1. Use lukewarm water to warm and lubricate the speculum. **When necessary, only use lubricants approved for pap collection sparingly** (Surgilube, Pap test lubricating jelly, Sion Cervilube). Apply to the outside of the speculum blades. Using the wrong type or too much lubricant will clog the filter used during pap processing, preventing cellular material from being transferred to the slide.
2. Do not collect specimen during menstruation (Do collect 2 weeks after the first day of LMP)
3. Patient should not douche, use vaginal medication/contraceptives or personal lubricant for 48 hours before exam
4. Remove excess mucus or other discharge before taking pap sample, gently removed using ring forceps holding a folded gauze pad
5. Remove inflammatory exudate from the cervical canal before taking pap sample by placing dry 2x2 inch gauze over the cervix and peeling it away, or using a dry procto swab or Scopette swab

02

MAXIMIZING TRANSFER OF CELLULAR MATERIAL INTO VIAL

Maximizing Transfer of Specimen into Vial:

1. Cellular material must be removed off the collection device as quickly as possible.
Cells will adhere to the collection device if left in the fixative solution (PreservCyt)
 - a. Spatula- Swirl spatula vigorously in the vial 10 times, discard spatula
 - b. Brush- Rotate the brush 10 times while pushing against the PresevCyt vial wall. Swirl the brush vigorously to further release material, discard brush.
 - c. Broom- Push the broom into the bottom of the vial 10 times, forcing the bristles apart. Swirl the broom vigorously to further release material, discard the broom
2. **Do not submit collection devices (brush, broom, spatula) in the specimen vials**
 - a. Being submitted with collection devices requires the vials to be manually opened and the devices removed by laboratory staff prior to processing
 - b. If the collection device cannot be visualized to remove it, the processing equipment will fail, often requiring a service call and potentially destroying the specimen (see photo of upended vial in processing equipment due to collection devices)



03

MISCELLANEOUS CAUSES OF UNSATISFACTORY PAPS

Miscellaneous Causes of Unsatisfactory Paps

1. Washing the cervix with saline can result in acellular specimens
2. Collecting specimens after the application of acetic acid
3. Over-rotating endocervical brushes. Slowly rotate just $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ turn in one direction
4. Vials submitted without patient specimen, only preservative. Typically, this happens when the specimen vial is labeled prior to the physician seeing the patient. Pap collection is verified with the office on all acellular specimens prior to issuing the unsatisfactory results.

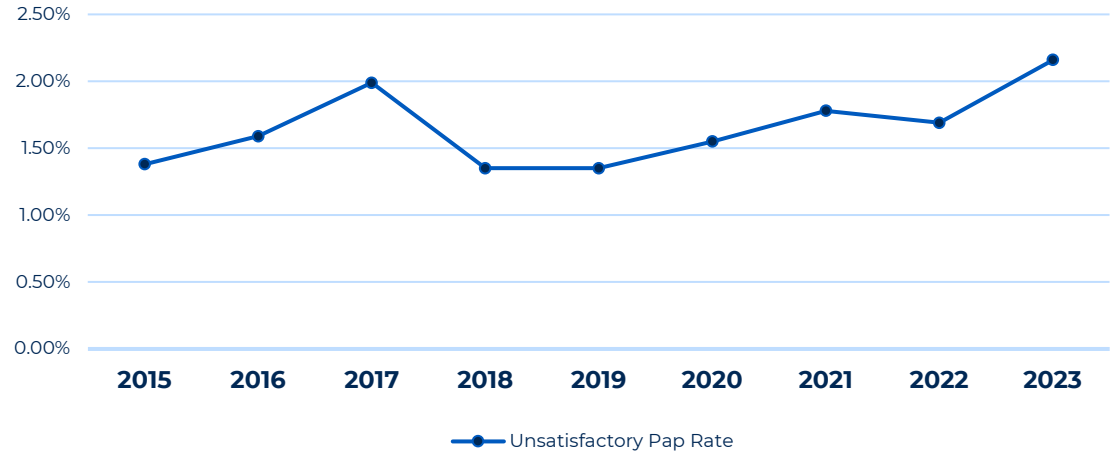
04

EXPECTATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Expectations and Opportunities

- The Unsatisfactory pap rate should be under 2%
- The national median unsatisfactory pap rate is 1.7%
- Technical representatives can assist in the offices with collection questions or troubleshooting

**Annual Unsatisfactory Pap Rates
Corewell Health East**



Thank you.

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