



OSCE Checklist: Vaginal Swabs

Introduction		
1	Gather equipment	
2	Wash your hands and don PPE if appropriate	
3	Introduce yourself to the patient including your name and role	
4	Confirm the patient's name and date of birth	
5	Explain what the procedure will involve using patient-friendly language	
6	Explain the need for a chaperone	
7	Gain consent to proceed with taking vaginal swabs	
8	Ask the patient if they have any pain before taking vaginal swabs	
9	Ask the patient to remove their underwear for the procedure and provide them with privacy whilst they get undressed	
Vulval inspection		
10	Don gloves and position the patient in the modified lithotomy position	
11	Inspect the vulva	
Inserting the speculum		
12	Re-check that the patient is happy to continue with the procedure	
13	Lubricate the speculum	
14	Use your left hand (index finger and thumb) to separate the labia	
15	Gently insert the speculum sideways (blades closed, angled downwards and backwards)	
16	Once inserted, rotate the speculum back 90° (so that the handle is facing upwards)	
17	Open the speculum blades until an optimal view of the cervix is achieved	
18	Tighten the locking nut to fix the position of the blades	
Visualising the cervix		
19	Inspect the cervix	
Taking the vaginal swabs		
20	Pick up the swab's sample tube using your dominant hand and pass it to your non-dominant hand	
21	Remove the lid of the sample tube using your dominant hand and place in the tray	
22	Pick up the swab itself with your dominant hand and take the relevant samples	
23	Place the used swab back into its tube, which should still be in your non-dominant hand and tighten the lid	
24	Place the completed swab into the tray	

Removing the speculum

25	Loosen the locking nut on the speculum and partially close the blades	
26	Rotate the speculum 90°, back to its original insertion orientation	
27	Gently remove the speculum, inspecting the walls of the vagina as you do so	
28	Re-cover the patient and explain the examination is complete	
29	Dispose of the used equipment into a clinical waste bin	

To complete the procedure...

30	Label the samples with the relevant details	
31	Thank the patient for their time	
32	Advise the patient that they'll be contacted with results via their preferred method (e.g. face to face or text message)	
33	Dispose of PPE appropriately and wash your hands	
34	Document the procedure in the medical notes including the details of the chaperone	
35	Send the vaginal swabs to the lab for processing	
36	Suggest further assessments and investigations (e.g. urinalysis, abdominal examination, bimanual vaginal examination)	

Read the full guide at
[geekymedics.com](https://www.geekymedics.com)



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