**MTN-025 Self-collected Vaginal Swab Instructions (8 Steps)**

**(NOTE: To be collected even during menses)**

**STEP 4**



* Remove swab and hold away from the soft tip

**STEP 3**



* Open wrapping on the end opposite of the soft tip

**STEP 1**



* Wash hands with soap
* Dry hands
* Undress from the waist down

**STEP 2**



* Remove cap from vial
* Place the cap top side down

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**STEP 8**



* Place the cap on vial
* Wash hands
* Give vial to study staff

**STEP**



* Place your finger or thumb on the bent shaft to prevent swab from coming out of vial.
* Bend the shaft back and forth
* Break the shaft off leaving only the soft tip in the vial.

**STEP 6**



* Hold the vial upright and place the soft tip of swab into vial.

**STEP 5**



* Open your inner labia with one hand.
* Hold the plastic swab shaft with thumb and first finger of the other hand.
* Insert the soft tip of the swab into your vagina approximately 4-5 cm (about the length of your little finger).
* Spin the swab touching all walls of the vagina for 10-20 seconds (counting thousand one, thousand two…).
* Remove slowly while still spinning swab.

**NOTE: If the swab is dropped, use a new swab and repeat the entire process**