Nurse Run Protocol (NRP) for Self-Collected Vaginal Discharge *Comprehensive Job Aid*



Instructions: To ensure both components of the NRP can be fully administered (1. facilitating patient-collected swabs, 2. delivering vaginal health education), please review the following considerations. To locate all NRP resources, please open the file in Adobe Acrobat and click on the paperclip icon on the left-hand side.

Before offering self-swabbing as a collection method...

Engage your Leadership

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Gaining leadership support before establishing the protocol can ease the implementation process and enable efficient mitigation of emerging issues during protocol delivery. Consider utilizing the bullet points in the 'Understanding Self-Collected Samples' section of the NRP to highlight the benefits of the protocol and garner leadership support.

2 Establish Flexible Protocol Delivery Options

The protocol includes both managing patients' self-swabbing experience and providing vaginal health education; these components may require additional time in patient intervention. To ensure completion of the protocol is not burdensome, consider the following protocol delivery options based on provider bandwidth and patient load.

- □ If provider bandwidth and patient load will enable adequate time to deliver both components of the protocol, then proceed with administering the protocol as written.
- □ If provider bandwidth and patient load is limited, consider only delivering the protocol during specific times, such as during sick call hours.
- □ If provider bandwidth and patient load allows for an abbreviated protocol, then consider shortening the protocol by removing nurse-driven counseling conversations and providing patients with the *What to Know: Vaginal Discharge* patient resource.

Determine On-Site Swab Testing Capabilities

Can patient-collected swabs be tested on-site? Review the attached wet prep and potassium hydroxide preparation SOPs to assess your clinic's ability to process swabs.

- □ If swabs can and will be tested on-site, then proceed with delivering the protocol.
- □ If swabs cannot be tested on-site, then coordinate with your closest clinic to establish a specimen transport procedure and timeline for reporting results.
- □ If swabs cannot be tested on-site and an alternative testing location cannot be established, then the self-swabbing portion of the protocol cannot be delivered. If provider bandwidth allows, consider providing patients with vaginal health education.

See the attached PDFs to complete the protocol

Before the patient leaves...

Action Checklist

- Educate the patient on normal vs. abnormal vaginal discharge, how to manage it, and how to maintain good vaginal health.
 - Tip: The What to Know: Vaginal Discharge Resource can serve as a guide to support nurse-topatient conversations.
- Provide the patient with educational handouts, including the What to Know: Vaginal Discharge Patient Resource and <u>Up-to-Date Patient Instruction Handout on Vaginal Discharge in Adult</u> <u>Women.</u>
- □ Inform the patient of when they can expect to receive their results.
- Ensure the patient understands the importance of picking up any prescribed medications.