

Section: Division of Nursing

PROCEDURE

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HACKETTSTOWN COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

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MATERNAL SERVICES
(Scope)

TITLE: Amniotest Swab for Detection of Rupture of Membranes

PURPOSE: To outline procedure for using Amniotest swabs as an aid in detecting rupture of amniotic membranes.

SUPPORTIVE DATA: Rupture of the amniotic membrane can result in small amounts of amniotic fluid leaking into the upper vagina. The presence of amniotic fluid tends to elevate the pH of the upper vagina. Detection of this pH increase using a pH indicator dye has been shown to assist in determining the presence of amniotic fluid. A pH of 6.5 or higher in the upper vagina is consistent with leakage of amniotic fluid.
Storage: Unopened packages of swabs should be stored at room temperature (15-30C). Product stored under these conditions will be stable until expiration date on the label.

EQUIPMENT: Amniotest swab
Vaginal speculum – if test to be done by medical care provider
Gloves
Color chart to interpret result
Doppler of electronic fetal monitor.

CONTENT:	PROCEDURE STEPS	KEY POINTS
	1. Have patient undress and put on gown.	Explain procedure to her.
	2. Put patient to bed. Place an under pad under her.	To absorb any leaking fluid.
	3. Obtain FHR	Assess fetal well-being per EFM protocol.
	4. Remove the Amniotest swab from the protective sleeve.	Do not touch the tip of the swab or allow it to come in contact with any liquid or substance which might affect the pH.
	5. Wearing gloves, part the labia. Insert the swab into the vagina. Touch the tip of the swab to the upper vaginal tissue (posterior vaginal fornix and external cervical os).	Best result is obtained using a vaginal speculum to expose the cervix.
	6. Allow the tip to remain in contact with the upper vaginal tissue for about 15 seconds.	

7. Carefully remove the swab and immediately examine the color of the tip. Use the Amniotest card to interpret results.

The color of the tip of the Amniotest swab after use should be compared to the sample colors of the Amniotest card. (Staff is tested for ability to distinguish color.)

8. Interpretation of results:
Yellow-orange to yellow-olive: approx. pH 5 to 6:
Intact membrane
Olive-green to Blue-black: Approx. pH 6.5 to 7.5:
Ruptured amniotic membrane

5. Conduct Quality Control of Amniotest swabs.

Quality Control must be run for each new box of swabs. Lab personnel will monitor the Quality Control. When opening a new box, write the **date opened** on the outside of the box and **call the Lab** for QC to be run.

REFERENCE:

Amniotest Nitrazine Yellow Swabs package insert, Pro-Lab Diagnostics.