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## Chapter 4 –Providing a Smear-taking Service

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### Infection Control Processes

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**Infection control processes**

The use of inadequately decontaminated instruments and appliances during examination of the vagina and cervix may lead to the transmission of infection. Smear takers must have appropriate infection control processes in place including:

- Documented policies and procedures that outline infection control practices for cleaning, disinfection and sterilisation
- Steam steriliser or autoclave for sterilisation, used appropriately, for sterilisation of reusable instruments and materials
- Surgically clean instruments are stored in a manner that ensures they remain clean
- Regular monitoring and review of infection control procedures to ensure their effectiveness.

Ensuring ‘single use only’ use if decontamination of instruments and appliances cannot be carried out effectively.

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**Standard 405**

**The smear taker’s practice will have appropriate infection control procedures and facilities.**

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**Use of disposable speculum**

The use of disposable speculum for taking cervical smears is preferable to non-disposable. Following single use the disposable speculum should be discarded.

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