



Family Planning Tasmania
sexuality education & clinical services

Family Planning Alliance Australia (FPAA) statement – IUD and cervical cleansing

Evidence is lacking to support the use of antiseptics to cleanse the cervix prior to IUD insertion. Excessive debris such as mucus can be removed from the cervix or vulva with sterile cotton balls or gauze soaked in saline as an alternative to antiseptic.

Sexually transmitted infections (STI) are not affected by standard antiseptics used to cleanse the cervix. If there are concerns regarding STI risk, a swab should be taken prior to or at the time of insertion. Post insertion pelvic inflammatory disease can be treated with antibiotics without removing the IUD and patients should be advised to seek review if symptoms are present following IUD insertion.