### Making spreads from fine needle aspiration

The ideal FNA sample is prepared as follows:

- Even monolayer spreads onto glass slides for air-dried 'direct smears'
- Needle to be rinsed in CytoRich Red preservative fluid (if available) or sterile saline
- Two passes are recommended for each case
- If Tuberculosis is suspected, please also send an aspirate to microbiology in a sterile container

### Step 1:
Having expelled a small drop of the aspirate onto a glass slide, place a clean slide (spreader) above the drop and spread gently but swiftly. Leave to air dry.

### Step 2:
Rinse the remaining material from the needle into the CytoRich Red preservative fluid by repeated aspiration and expelling of the said CytoRich Red preservative fluid.

### Step 3:
Label container containing CytoRich Red preservative fluid according to specimen acceptance policy and use a pencil to label slide.

### Step 4:
Complete request form, package sample and send to Cytology Department, Clinical Sciences Building 2.

(Last reviewed 27th February 2018)