



Renewed National Cervical Screening Program

Reference Guide for Doctors

From 1 December 2017 all health care professionals are required to follow the clinical pathway for cervical screening of eligible women as outlined in the renewed National Cervical Screening Program. SydPath has summarised the information and tabled requirements for your reference.

The Test

The primary screening Cervical Screening Test is the Human Papillomavirus Test (**HPV**) with partial HPV genotyping and reflex liquid-based cytology (**LBC**) triage.

Screening Intervals

HPV test should be undertaken every 5 years for asymptomatic HPV vaccinated and unvaccinated women from 25 to 69 years of age.

Cervical screening should commence at 25 years of age and finishes at 74 years of age. Women with symptoms (including pain or bleeding) can have a cervical test at any age.

The Request

Record which of the following test/s is to be performed:

- HPV (Primary)
- HPV + LBC (symptomatic patients)
- HPV (self-collect)
- LBC Only

Cervical Screening Status

SydPath request forms display a list in a dedicated field marked Cervical Screening Status. This information is required to be supplied to classify the request for reporting and billing purposes.

- Asymptomatic
- Symptomatic/specific population screening/follow up
- Vaginal Vault
- Follow Up on Self Collect for HPV Test for Clinical Management
- Repeat due to unsatisfactory tests

Clinical Notes

All related **clinical history** notes and the **sample site** are to be entered in the dedicated field for clinical notes.

Collection Requirements

Employ the same procedure for collecting the sample for HPV testing as for obtaining cervical cytology sample for examination in a ThinPrep® vial.

Patient Information

- The patient should be tested 2 weeks after the first day of her last menstrual period, and not whilst menstruating.
- The patient should not use vaginal medication, vaginal contraceptives or vaginal lavages for 48hrs before the exam.
- The patient should refrain from intercourse 48hrs before the exam.

Caution on the use of lubricants

Lubricants may interfere with pathology tests. If necessary use a small amount of water-soluble **carbomer-free** lubricant applied sparingly to the outer portion of the speculum only, avoiding the tip. Lubricant supplied by SydPath is water-soluble and carbomer-free.

Self-Collections

For patients who will not undergo collection by a clinician, they can be assisted to collect the vaginal samples themselves.

Note: If the HPV test is positive, the patient will need to return for a clinician-collected sample.

Additional STI Molecular Testing (CT/GC, Genital PCR)

These tests can be performed from the same thin prep vial and material collected for the HPV test, please note however that new guidelines instruct pathology providers to wait until HPV and LBC testing is completed before the thin prep sample is aliquoted for additional molecular testing.

SydPath recommends for time critical STI assessments that doctors collect additional samples, such as PCR + micro culture swabs or urine.

Reports

The format for cervical screening has changed and consists of four sections:

1. Cervical screening result: Reported as low, intermediate or higher risk of significant cervical abnormality or as unsatisfactory for evaluation.
2. Specimen type
3. Test results: HPV test type and result (including partial genotyping), and if performed reflex cytology test type and result.
4. Concise recommendation for further management, based on current result and patients screening history as recorded with the National Pathology Accreditation Advisory Council (NPAAC).

Medicare Rebate Conditions

A Medicare rebate is available for cervical screening performed under the following conditions:

- Primary HPV test every 5 years for asymptomatic patients ≥ 24 yrs. and 9 months of age.
- Self-collect HPV test every 7 years for asymptomatic patients ≥ 30 years.
- Primary HPV test and Reflex LBC on symptomatic patients/ screening in specific populations and follow up or post treatment for clinical managements carry no age or testing interval restrictions.
- Vaginal vault Primary HPV test \pm Reflex LBC post total hysterectomy carry no age restrictions.
- Vaginal self-collect HPV test and cervical standalone LBC on follow up for clinical management patients carry no age restrictions; however testing is only claimable within a 21 month period following detection of oncogenic HPV.
- Repeat testing for Primary HPV, self-collect HPV & LBC due to unsatisfactory test results carry no age restrictions.

Fees

Both Cervical Screening Test (**HPV**) and Liquid-based Cytology (**LBC**) attract Medicare Rebates as per the conditions outlined in the Medicare Benefits Schedule, November 2017.

The following charges apply for patients that **DO NOT** qualify for Medicare benefits:

Cervical Screening Test	(HPV)	\$55
Liquid-based Cytology	(LBC)	\$75

**For further information, please contact
SydPath Cytology on 1800 SYDPATH (1800 793 738)**