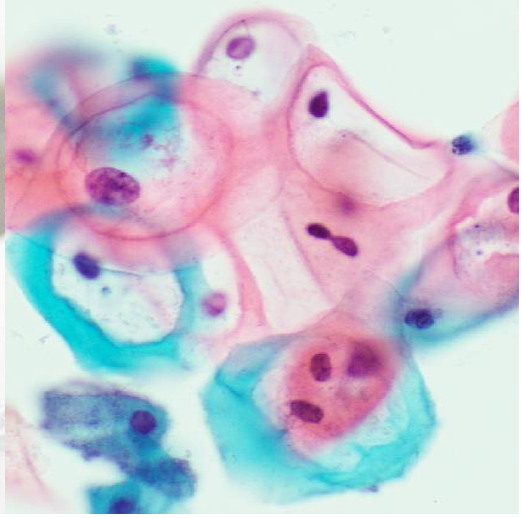
SydPath
ST VINCENT'S PATHOLOGY



NATIONAL CERVICAL SCREENING PROGRAM

REFERENCE GUIDE FOR DOCTORS

All health care professionals are required to follow the clinical pathway for cervical screening of eligible women as outlined in the National Cervical Screening Program (NCSP). 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

Cervical Screening Testing should be undertaken every 5 years for asymptomatic HPV vaccinated and unvaccinated women from 25 to 74 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

Symptomatic refers to women exhibiting symptoms which include post coital bleeding, irregular/abnormal vaginal bleeding, post-menopausal bleeding, dyspareunia, abnormal discharge and abnormal/suspicious appearance to cervix.

Specific Population refers to women who are:

- Immunocompromised / immunodeficient
- Women with DES exposure in-utero
- Women who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- Following treatment of histologically proven HSIL
- Follow up HPV test after previous positive screening test (12 months repeat)
- Early sexual debut, prior to 14 years and unvaccinated at that time (only one test claimable).

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CLINICAL NOTES

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

COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS

The collection of cells for the Cervical Screening Test is completed the same way a Pap Smear was collected, with the only difference being that the sampler is vigorously rinsed in a ThinPrep® vial.

- 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.

Note: Lubricants may interfere with pathology tests. If necessary, use a small amount of water-soluble **carbomer-free** lubricant. SydPath supply water-soluble and carbomer-free lubricant.

SELF-COLLECTED HPV TEST

As of 1st July 2022, all women aged between 25 to 74 years due for their 5-yearly cervical screening are eligible for self-collection.
After discussion with your patient, if self-collection is the preferred sampling method, it is optimal this sample be collected on-site at the clinic.
Currently, self-collect samples are sent to the Victorian Cytology service for processing and reporting. SydPath is currently verifying this test in house.

Self-collection is not suitable for patients who are:
- Symptomatic
- History of AIS
- Undergoing Test of cure surveillance
- Exposed to Diethystilbestol (DES) in utero.
- Had a total hysterectomy with a history of high grade squamous intra-epithelial lesion (HSIL)

Note: If the **self-collected 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 CST, please note however that guidelines instruct pathology providers to wait until HPV and LBC testing is completed before the thin prep samples are 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.

Note: ThinPrep® vial Expiry Date
Testing cannot be performed on thin prep vials which have expired. Expiration date is located on the lower half of the vial and should be checked prior to collection. It is recommended that vials in use have a three-month shelf life at time of use. SydPath can provide new vials on request**.**

REPORTS

The format for cervical screening consists of four sections:
1. Cervical screening risk category: Reported as low, intermediate, higher risk of significant cervical abnormality, as unsatisfactory for evaluation, or No Risk category assigned.
2. Specimen type.
3. Test results: HPV test type and result (including partial genotyping), and if required, the 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 Cancer Screening Register (NCSR).

MEDICARE REBATE CONDITIONS

A Medicare rebate is available for cervical screening performed under the following conditions:
- HPV test clinician-collect or self-collect every 5 years for asymptomatic patients ≥24 years and 9 months of age.
- HPV test and Reflex LBC on symptomatic patients screening in specific populations, for follow up or post treatment for clinical management of biopsy proven high grade lesion.
- Vaginal vault HPV test ± Reflex LBC post total hysterectomy.
- Standalone LBC on follow up for clinical management patients.
- Repeat testing for HPV, self-collect HPV & LBC due to unsatisfactory test results.

FEES

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

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 (02) 8382 9230.

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