

**June 2023**

# HPV Primary Screening

The current National Cervical Screening Program (NCSP) utilising cervical cytology as the primary test will change from Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023. The new primary screening test from this date will be the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) nuclei acid amplification test. This new HPV molecular test will be more sensitive than the current cytology leading to better health outcomes for the women of New Zealand.

The HPV test can either be performed on the current liquid-based cytology (LBC) sample (SurePath) or utilising a self-collected or clinician collect vaginal swab. Pathlab will be using the BD Onclarity HPV test for analysing these specimens. Cytology will still be utilised but as a reflex test for HPV positive patients or co-test in symptomatic patients. (If an HPV swab is positive then the patient will be asked to return so a SurePath LBC can be collected for the reflex cytology.)

For further information about the HPV Primary Screening changes please refer to the Time to Screen website, <https://www.timetoscreen.nz/cervical-screening/changes-to-the-test/>.

Pathlab will be providing HPV Primary Screening and cytology services to all health providers in the Waikato, Bay of Plenty and Lakes districts. Specimen pickup and provision of consumables will be the same as current Pathlab arrangements. The current order forms will be updated to include the new HPV swab kits.

The details for ordering of consumables for HPV testing and cytology are on the Pathlab website here, <https://www.pathlab.co.nz/supplies>. This page will be updated to reflect the ordering changes by the week of 26<sup>th</sup> June. SurePath orders will be dispatched as they are received but HPV swab orders will not be dispatched until the week starting 10<sup>th</sup> July. The HPV swabs must not be used for specimen collection until the HPV primary screening go live date of 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

If you have any questions please refer to the Pathlab website HPV page, <https://www.pathlab.co.nz/hpv> or contact us either by phone on 07 578 7073 or using the secure contact form, <https://www.pathlab.co.nz/contact>

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CLINICAL UPDATE

**Please ensure all personnel of your institution receive a copy of this clinical update.**

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