
Chapter 6 - Providing a Colposcopy Service

Providing Information to Women Policy

Purpose The purpose of this policy is to provide women with accurate and timely information necessary in making a decision.

Policy The following policies apply.

- An experienced nurse or social worker must be available to all women during and after the consultation.
- Colposcopy services must provide women with information necessary:
 - before a visit
 - during a visit, and
 - after diagnosis.
- Colposcopy services must inform all women that:
 - their results will be sent to the GP and smear taker (if not the GP), in accordance with Rule Three of the Health Information Privacy Code (1994)
 - their information, smear and biopsy results will be forwarded to the NCSP.
- Colposcopy Services will ensure there is adequate time and space for:
 - education
 - support
 - decision making regarding diagnosis and treatment options
 - questions to be answered.

Information to be given prior to visit Prior to the initial visit, women must be:

- sent the NCSP colposcopy pamphlet
- told whether treatment may take place during the visit
- told that they may be accompanied by a support person
- sent an appropriately worded invitation letter with their appointment that includes:
 - a contact name, telephone number and times to phone
 - what to do if menstruating at the time of appointment
 - how to notify the colposcopy services if there is a need for an interpreter or any special services
 - what the follow-up procedures are, where appropriate.

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Chapter 6 - Providing a Colposcopy Service

Providing Information to Women Policy, Continued

Information to be given after diagnosis

After diagnosis women must be given:

- all the options for treatment, in order to assist the woman to make an informed decision
- written information on treatment options, which must include the advice that she can see her GP/PCP or other agencies for further information
- information regarding appropriate anaesthetic options
- information about the availability of free, high quality treatments
- the option for referral to a gynaecology oncology service, where required, for women with a diagnosis of cancer
- information on referral to long-term support services, where required.

Note:

Support services may include:

- gynaecology / oncology services for women with a diagnosis of cancer
 - appropriate long term support services in the community e.g. the Cancer Society, counselling or other nursing or voluntary agencies.
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See also

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- Rule Three of the Health Information Privacy Code (1994)
 - Standard 604, page 6.25.
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