
Chapter 4 –Providing a Smear-taking Service

Improving Women’s Participation in the NCSP

Improving participation in the NCSP

There are some critical factors that improve women’s participation in the Programme. These include:

- Support of the NCSP by the health promoter, smear taker, primary care provider, and colposcopist
 - Information about the NCSP and its benefits and limitations
 - Informing women that policy, standards, monitoring and evaluation are in place.
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Encouraging women to have regular smears

A key role played by the smear taker is that of encouraging women to have regular smears in accordance with the Screening Recommendations in Chapter 2 of this manual. The main strategies that should be used by smear takers to encourage women to have regular smears are:

- Taking the initiative and raising the issue of cervical smears with women
 - Maintaining an identification and recall system which identifies women who are due to have their first smear, and women who are due to be recalled for subsequent screening
 - Ensuring women are physically and psychologically comfortable
 - Making sure that every woman knows how she will receive her results and knows when her next smear test is due.
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Standard 402 Smear takers will invite or recall women and provide a smear-taking service in accordance with the Screening Recommendations 1997 summarised in Chapter 2 of this manual.

Standard 403 Smear-taking providers will ensure that women have access to information about a range of smear-taking providers.

Standard 404 Smear-taking providers will ensure that Maori women are given information about other options for smear-taking, including services provided by Maori.
