

# HPV Primary Screening: Support pack for Administrators

**Effective from: Tuesday 12 Sept 2023**

# 'Go Live' information at your fingertips

## **Purpose:**

**Use this 6-Slide information pack to quickly find information you may need as participants call or ask questions about HPV Primary Screening.**

# Potential questions from callers

## **How do I know if I'm eligible for cervical screening?**

Cervical screening is available to wāhine/women and people with a cervix aged 25 to 69, who have ever had intimate skin-to-skin contact or any sexual activity, no matter their sexual orientation.

## **Is it okay to have a cervical screening test if I'm pregnant?**

It is safe to have a screening test when you are pregnant, but it is best to discuss this with your healthcare provider.

## **Will I have to pay to do a screening test?**

If a caller is eligible for funding (see slide 5) then they should receive free screening.

If a caller is not from an eligible group inform them of the fee charged by your organisation.

## **How accurate is HPV cervical screening?**

The HPV test is very sensitive at finding HPV, whether you opt for the self-test, get your health provider to help, or have an examination of your cervix.

However, no test is perfect and there's a very small chance that HPV or cell changes could be missed. That's why it's important to have regular screening and, if you have any symptoms in between screening appointments, to report them to your doctor.

## **How soon will I get my results?**

Your HPV result will usually come back within two weeks.

# Potential questions from callers

## **How is it different to the test I've had in the past?**

For most people HPV screening will replace the test (previously called a smear test) where a doctor or nurse performed a vaginal examination and took a cell sample from your cervix.

This new screening can be done as a simple vaginal swab. You can choose to do this as a self-test in a private place in our office / clinic / practice (such as behind a curtain or in a bathroom), or you can have your doctor or nurse assist you.

You can also choose to continue to have the test, previously called a smear test, where a cell sample is taken from your cervix.

For most people regular screening will now only be needed every 5 years (or 3-yearly if you are immune deficient).

## **Is it safe to have such a big gap between screenings?**

The screening gap can be safely extended to 5 years because the HPV test is a better first screening test. It's a more sensitive test designed to find the cause of most cervical cancer.

## **Does this mean I won't need a smear test anymore?**

The swab test option will suit most but may not be ideal for everyone.

Some people will still be recommended to have a clinician-taken cervical sample, or you may still choose this option if you prefer.

If HPV is detected from a swab test the participant will need to return for a cervical cell sample or be referred to a specialist clinic depending on the type of HPV found. Around 10% of participants will have an HPV Detected result.

# Funding

**Te Whatu Ora announced, in July 2023, \$7.3 million funding for free cervical screening for those in eligible groups.**

Free screening will be available from 12 September 2023 for:

- women and people with a cervix 30 years and over who are un-screened (have never had a screening test) or under-screened (haven't had a cytology test in the past 5 years)
- anyone requiring follow up
- Māori and Pacific aged 25 – 69 years
- anyone who is a community service card holder aged 25 – 69 years.

Individuals from these groups should receive screening services without co-payment.

Work to issue and sign Letters of Intent (LOI) for funding of NCSP cervical screening services for eligible groups is ongoing. Te Whatu Ora will pay all eligible claims from 12 September 2023.

**Follow-up testing is free for everyone, regardless of their eligibility for free routine screening.**

# Notes about free and priority screening



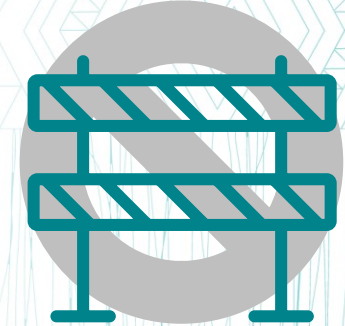
## For participants not in a priority group:

Maintain a participant's normal screening cycle until it is time for their first HPV screen.



## For participants in a priority screening group:

You may want to proactively reach out to those who are un-screened or under-screened to share information about HPV Primary Screening and encourage them to participate in the National Cervical Screening Programme.



## For participants eligible for free screening:

Please make sure these participants aren't asked for co-payment and / or fees.

# Support contact information



I'm a PARTICIPANT with a QUESTION  
I call **0800 729 729** or  
I email [screening@health.govt.nz](mailto:screening@health.govt.nz)

Note: for participant withdrawal requests ONLY, the participant should be directed to [info@ncsregister.health.nz](mailto:info@ncsregister.health.nz) / 0800 50 60 50



I'm a PROVIDER with a QUESTION  
I call **0800 729 729** or  
I email **my regional contact**



I'm a provider with a CLINICAL QUESTION  
I call **0800 4 90 70 90** or  
I email **my regional contact**



I'm a user with a TECHNICAL QUESTION  
I call **0800 223 987** or  
I email [screening@health.govt.nz](mailto:screening@health.govt.nz)

# For more information



**Te Whatu Ora Website:**  
**[HPV Primary Screening Support and Resources](#)**



**Order participant resources from HealthEd:**  
**[All – Tagged "Cervical screening" – HealthEd](#)**



**Send questions or feedback to:**  
**[hpvscreen@health.govt.nz](mailto:hpvscreen@health.govt.nz)**