

A quick look at the new cervical screening program

- On December 1, 2017, the cytology-based Pap test will be completely replaced by the Cervical Screening Test (CST).
- The CST will be the only Medicare-funded routine cervical screening test, and will be available to women aged 25 to 74 years.
- Specimens need to be collected by clinicians into ThinPrep® vials.
- Request forms must specify the requested test PLUS the reason for test PLUS supporting clinical notes.

A risk-based approach

The CST uses an HPV DNA test to detect the presence of oncogenic HPV types known to be associated with a higher risk of developing significant cervical abnormalities. The HPV test is more sensitive than cytology, so it can be performed less frequently.

- Asymptomatic women who test negative for oncogenic HPV** are at low risk of developing cervical cancer and only need to be screened every 5 years.
- Asymptomatic women who test positive for oncogenic HPV** will have a liquid-based cytology (LBC) test performed on the same sample (**reflex LBC**) and will be assessed as either intermediate risk and advised to return for further testing in 12 months, or higher risk and referred for colposcopy.
- Symptomatic women and those with a history of high-grade cervical pathology** will have both an HPV and LBC test (**Co-test**) performed, regardless of their HPV result.
- Women with special circumstances identified by the program may be offered more frequent screening or a single screening test prior to age 25.

Useful tips for ordering tests in the new program

1 Collect the right sample

Clinician-collected samples

The HPV collection procedure is similar to taking a Pap test, but **all material must be collected into a ThinPrep® vial**. DO NOT MAKE A GLASS SLIDE.

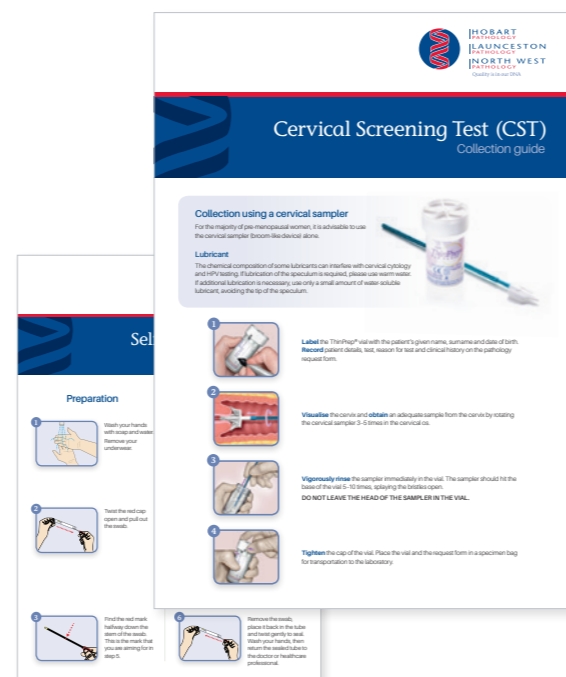
Please see our CST collection guide for detailed instructions.

Self-collected HPV test

In the new program, self-collected HPV tests should only be offered under strict guidelines (see table opposite), and are not intended as a routine alternative to clinician-collected samples.

Eligible women should be given a dry flocked swab, a patient instruction sheet, and advised to collect the specimen in the surgery bathroom.

Self-collection should not be offered to pregnant women.



2 Order the appropriate test, including reason for test

The new program requires clinicians to order different tests for different circumstances.

In order to qualify for Medicare benefits it is important to indicate:

- The specific test required. Most samples will be clinician-collected cervical samples, however, for vaginal and self-collected (vaginal) samples, please indicate the site in the test name as shown below.
- The reason you are ordering the test.
- Any other relevant clinical information.

The most common ordering scenarios are described in the tables below.

CERVICAL TESTS	Reason for test	Medicare restrictions
CST Routine (HPV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asymptomatic screening 	25–74 years (1 test per 57 months)
Co-test (HPV+LBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symptomatic (provide details of symptoms) DES exposed Test of Cure, previous HSIL Follow-up, previous AIS 	Any age, no time restriction
HPV test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up 12-month repeat test Immune-deficient Early sexual debut (<14 years) prior to vaccination Previous unsatisfactory HPV test 	1 only between 20–24 years Must have previous cervical MBS screening item
LBC test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following HPV (not 16/18) detection in a self-collected sample Previous unsatisfactory LBC test 	Must have previous cervical MBS screening item

VAGINAL TESTS	Reason for test	Medicare restrictions
Vaginal Co-test (HPV+LBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hysterectomy and previous HSIL 	Test of Cure not complete prior to hysterectomy
Vaginal HPV test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Previous hysterectomy without evidence of cervical pathology Previous hysterectomy screening history unknown Previous unsatisfactory vaginal HPV test 	Must have previous vaginal MBS screening item
Vaginal LBC test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Previous unsatisfactory vaginal LBC test 	Must have previous vaginal MBS screening item

SELF-COLLECTED HPV TEST	Reason for test	Medicare restrictions
Self-collected HPV test (Vaginal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under or never screened and refuses speculum exam Self-collect follow-up 12-month repeat test 	At least 30 years of age and never screened or at least 2 years overdue for screening (1 test per 84 months) Only claimable within 21 months of HPV detected result in a self-collected sample

3 Include clinical notes

Clinical notes supporting the reason for test must be included on your pathology request so that the appropriate test can be performed. It is particularly important to include the details of any abnormal vaginal bleeding (e.g. PCB single episode, PCB recurrent, PMB, pain during intercourse) and any other relevant screening or gynaecological history.

Tick boxes for clinical notes may be available in your practice management software system and are also included on the special CST request forms. Copies can be ordered using the resource order form provided.