



Self-collected HPV test

Sonic Healthcare now has an accredited testing facility

May 2019

Initiatives to improve participation in Cervical Screening have always been a focus of the Australian Cervical Screening Program. To this end, an important new component of the Renewed Cervical Screening Program, which began in Australia on December 1, 2017, was the introduction of a self-collected HPV test.

While only offered to a limited number of women meeting strict funding criteria (see below), the self-collected HPV test will increase participation by offering an acceptable alternative to those women who previously, for many reasons, have not felt comfortable to take part in this important women's health program.

Due to the requirement for the test to be validated by each individual testing laboratory, up until now the self-collected HPV test could only be performed by one Australian laboratory, located in Victoria.

Sonic Healthcare's Sydney based laboratory, Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology, in association with Family Planning NSW, have now completed the requirements for validation and are pleased to announce their accreditation to carry out the self-collected HPV test on behalf of all Sonic laboratories on site at their dedicated cervical screening unit.

1 Criteria for offering the self-collected HPV test

The self-collected HPV test is not intended as a routine alternative to clinician-collected cervical samples and should only be offered under the strict guidelines below:

- Patient must be at least 30 years of age.
- Patient must never have been screened or be at least two years overdue for screening (i.e. at least four years since last normal Pap test or seven years since last negative HPV test).
- Patient must decline a vaginal speculum examination.

2 Collecting the sample

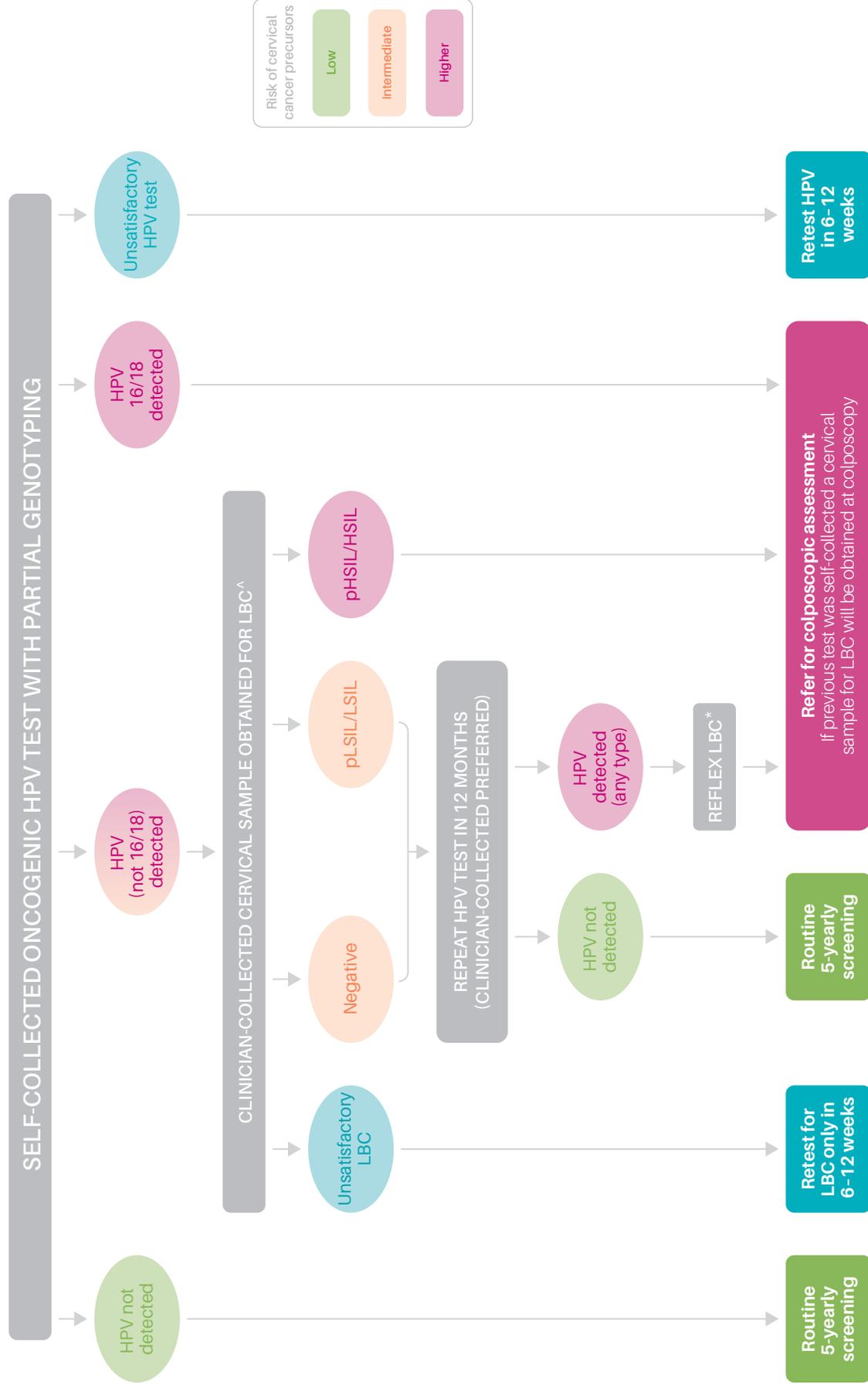
- The patient must collect the sample in the surgery or healthcare clinic using a red-topped Copan 552C dry FLOQ swab (see below). The swab should be immediately returned to the clinician for referral to the testing laboratory. Patient instruction sheets (see right) are available and can be ordered from our Client Services Department.
- The self-collected HPV test should not be offered to pregnant women.



The self-collected HPV test screening pathway differs from that for routine clinician-collected cervical samples and is shown overleaf.

For further information, please call (03) 6332 0503

Screening pathway for self-collected samples



[^] Healthcare professional visit required

* Reflex LBC can only be performed if repeat HPV test was a clinician-collected cervical sample