

# Cervical Screening & HPV Primary Screening

## Purpose

Increase the rates of cervical screening and HPV screening for eligible people with a cervix to eliminate cervical cancer in Aotearoa New Zealand

## Introduction

The World Health Organization (WHO) launched a global strategy to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem, [by achieving] an incidence rate of less than 4 in 100,000 women.

In September 2023, the NCSP implemented HPV primary screening with the option of self-testing under clinical oversight and along with upgrading supporting information and communications technology.

The changes in primary screening for HPV involves a significant shift in methodology and thinking.

The new approach entails testing for the presence of HPV. This complements or replaces the traditional method, the taking of liquid-based cytology (LBC) samples (previously known as a “smear test”) in the group of people found to be HPV negative (with no prior abnormal history).

By adopting HPV primary screening, the goal is to enhance the accuracy and sensitivity of screening, enabling early detection and intervention for improved health outcomes. HPV testing is a better primary screening test and will prevent more cervical cancers.

For most people, self-testing will be an option. A vaginal HPV swab can be taken by the participant in privacy at a health clinic.

The HPV test is a better first screening test than the previous cytology test. It is very sensitive in finding the virus that causes the cell changes. Cervical cancer often takes 10 or more years to develop.

If there is no evidence of HPV, the risk of developing cell changes that may cause cancer within 5 years is very low.

## Options for Testing

In the National Cervical Screening Programme (NCSP), most people can choose how their test is done. The options are:

1. A self-test swab sample taken from the vagina (not the cervix) which is tested for HPV;
2. A clinician-taken vaginal swab sample which is tested for HPV, or
3. A clinician-taken cell sample from the cervix, previously referred to as a smear test, which is tested for HPV. This option also allows for a cytology test to be done if HPV is detected without needing to return for a further

test, or where the person has a history of abnormalities or the person is symptomatic.

Self-testing is not appropriate for everyone (for example, people who have symptoms or require a co-test for follow up after treatment). A self-taken vaginal swab is just as good as a clinician-taken sample for detecting HPV.

## Testing & Timeframes

The 5-yearly HPV screening test replaces the 3-yearly cytology test, which looks for cell changes (previously known as a smear).

People who are immune deficient are at a higher risk of developing cervical cell changes so are recommended to have 3-yearly screening.

Note that all co-test Test of Cure (TOC) requires a 'co-test' section on the e labs form and abnormal history indicated.

## Equity

There are significant ethnic disparities, with disproportionately high cancer rates in Māori and Pacific people. 85% of people who develop cervical cancer in Aotearoa New Zealand either have never been screened or have been screened infrequently.

The NCSP is not a fully funded programme. Most participants will pay a fee for the service provided. There is, however, funding available via POAC for eligible patients as outlined below.

## Funding

### Claiming and Eligibility via POAC funded by Te Whatu Ora

- Funding is irrespective of HPV self-test of cervical sample used
- Applies to all women and people with a cervix
- Screening must be free to all eligible women
- Claim via the POAC Service
- **Submit invoice via the POAC PMS form using the patient domiciled district unless the patient resides in Counties Manukau where you can override the warning and proceed under the district of the practice. Use the code 'Cervical Screening', and select the appropriate fee from the listed schedule, based on the eligibility of the patient.**
- **This includes both types of screening.**
- Funding is GST inclusive

Type of Screen	Eligibility	Age	Funding (incl GST)
Routine	Māori/Pacific	25 – 69 years	\$49.75
	CSC holder		\$40.25
	Un-screened/under screened <u>5+ years</u> since previous normal cytology <u>3 years</u> If immune deficient	30+ years	\$57.50

	Not had 2 consecutive normal cytology results between 62 – 69 years, or HPV not detected results in 5 years prior to the age of 70	70 – 74 years	
<b>Follow up</b>	Everyone who requires a follow up test – refer to POAC information <a href="https://www.poac.co.nz/cervical-screening/">https://www.poac.co.nz/cervical-screening/</a>	All who have had an HPV screen or cervical smear	\$57.50
<b>After hours</b>	Accessible Cervical Screening (in addition to the standard fee for screening outside of normal clinic hours)	All eligible	\$99.50

[https://www.nsu.govt.nz/system/files/page/flowcharts\\_-\\_free\\_hpv\\_primary\\_screening\\_and\\_follow\\_up\\_23august2023\\_0.pdf](https://www.nsu.govt.nz/system/files/page/flowcharts_-_free_hpv_primary_screening_and_follow_up_23august2023_0.pdf)

Auckland PHO funds a follow up consult for patients with an HPV result 16 & 18 for referral to colposcopy (as Te Whatu Ora does not fund this category) to discuss the result and answer the patient’s questions.

Claim via the Mōhio form

Type of screen	Eligibility	Age	Funding
<b>HPV 16 &amp; 18 Result</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enrolled</li> <li>HPV result = 16 &amp; 18</li> </ul>	All	\$50.00 (GST ex)

## Reporting Mohio Express

Refer to the Auckland PHO Website – Resource Library (Password aucklandpho) Mōhio Express – traffic light system  
<https://www.aucklandpho.co.nz/post/hpv-self-test-cx-m%C5%8Dhio-express>  
Mōhio Cx report  
<https://www.aucklandpho.co.nz/post/new-mohio-report-cx-and-hpv-recall-list>

## Resources

Auckland PHO provides lavalavas for women to cover up when having a cervical smear. Orders can be placed by completing the [Auckland PHO Resource Order Form](#) or emailing [info@aucklandpho.co.nz](mailto:info@aucklandpho.co.nz)

<https://www.tewhaturora.govt.nz/for-the-health-sector/ncsp-hpv-screening/understand-hpv-primary-screening/>

[Community HealthPathways – Cervical Screening](#)

## Contact

For further information contact  
Siobhan Matich – Quality Improvement Manager  
[Siobhan@aucklandpho.co.nz](mailto:Siobhan@aucklandpho.co.nz)

# Mōhio Form

Note that the Best Care Mōhio form has been adjusted in order for HPV and cervical smears can be claimed via POAC. Practices can claim for a follow up consult for a HPV 16 & 18 result on the Mōhio Best Care HPV form.

MohioForms [Menu](#) [Provider](#) [Patient](#) **Form** [Back Office](#)

**Best Care HPV(3008)** [Information and Eligibility](#) **Main** [Claims](#) [Decision Support](#)

Consultation Date

*At present, there isn't a HPV recall in place on this form. Please ensure that a recall is set properly once the test result is received.*

This form is used for 'Self-test HVP 16 & 18 positive refer colposcopy' only if the consultation date is after 31st Oct, you will need to claim other items via POAC. Please contact your PHO if you have any questions

National Cervical Screening Programme: 0800 729 729

**A Woman or person with a cervix (or has had a cervix)**

**Consent to Procedure**

**Consent to Register**   
[Mohio HPV Request-to-withdraw-from-the-NCSP-form.pdf](#)

**Date of Last Smear**    
*If different from consultation date (PMS pre-population & writeback have not been implemented for this field yet)*

**Due for Cervical Smear**

**HPV Claim Type**

**Reasons for Repeat Claims**