

Cervical Cancer Prevention Program

Important Information for GP's

There have been changes to the *Public Health Act 1997* (Part 7 – Registers). The changes have resulted in aligning the Tasmanian Cervical Screening Register with the National Cervical Screening Program.

What does this mean to GP's?

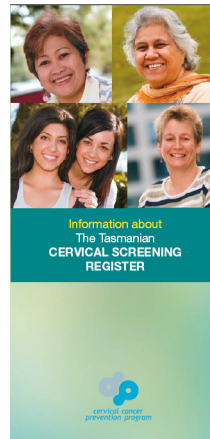
- The restrictions for sharing a woman's information on the Cervical Screening Register have been removed (s137-139 *Public Health Act 1997*). This means it will be easier for the Register to share the patient's screening history with:
 - the woman;
 - the pathology laboratories;
 - medical practitioners;
 - corresponding interstate cervical screening registers;
 - the HPV Vaccination Program Register; and
 - Medicare Australia.
- To make sure you have the appropriate information for your patient's follow-up care and management you can contact the Register directly for her screening history.

Some important points:

- A woman may choose not to have her cervical cancer test results provided to the Register. This right has been preserved under the *Public Health Act 1997*. (www.thelaw.tas.gov.au)
- At the time of a Pap smear or other cervical cancer tests, it is important for the GP to explain that unless the patient 'objects to inclusion', pathology will automatically send a copy of the cervical cancer test result to the Register.
- If your patient objects to the test result being recorded on the Register you should indicate clearly on the pathology request form that the test is 'Not for Register'. We can provide you with these stickers.

A New Brochure: 'Information About the Cervical Screening Register'

- A new brochure has been produced to provide women with important information about the role of the Cervical Screening Register.
- We will send out the brochure to your patient with her "Welcome to the Register" letter.
- There are thousands of women already on the Register who will not receive this brochure directly from the Register. We would appreciate your assistance in raising your patient's awareness of this brochure and the valuable information it contains.



- The brochure is free, easy to read, and available from the Register for display in your practice.
- You will notice that the Register has changed its name.

- The brochure is particularly beneficial for patients who might not be familiar with the role and function of the Cervical Screening Register. It contains important information about the patient's screening history, the HPV Vaccination Register, the importance of screening after vaccination, and some facts about HPV.
- Just a reminder, if your patient is moving interstate, the Register can provide your patient with a copy of her screening history.
- At a future date, the Register will be able to share some information with the HPV

Cervical Cancer Prevention Program

Vaccination Program Register and the Australian Institute for Health and Welfare for the purpose of monitoring the impact of vaccination on cervical cancer.

Here are samples of brochures available from the Cervical Cancer Prevention Program that also contain valuable information and are available free from the Register.

To order:

- Brochures & Pamphlets
- 'Not for Register Stickers' or
- Other resources

you can either:

- go on line at www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/cancerscreening/cervical_screening_register/;

or

- call the Cervical Screening Register on 131556 (local call) or 03 62164323 if you are calling from interstate.

