

Cervical Cancer Prevention Program

A new Pap Smear Register for Tasmania

Project Update – New Pap Smear Register

Cancer Screening and Control Services are currently undertaking a project to implement the new Tasmanian Pap Smear Register which is scheduled to complete by mid 2008. This will replace the current 14 year old system. The new Pap Smear Register will ensure that the Tasmanian Cervical Cancer Prevention Program (CCPP) has a secure, reliable, compliant and effective Tasmanian Cervical Cytology Register (TCCR).

Although it has taken some time, the project now has momentum and the legal process was completed in February 2008. System development with the vendor in Canberra has now commenced and we are proceeding with the internal IT set up.

Over the last few months we have engaged key stakeholders and held valuable meetings with the pathology laboratories to discuss the impact of impending changes and requirements. All laboratories have been receptive to the changes, understand the benefits and have committed to the 'go-live' date for the system of 30 June 2008.

What will be new in the Pap smear Register?

There will be improvements with cytology data transmissions and the data loading process which will improve timeliness and reduce the manual work required. These improvements will create better access to client history for the laboratories, women and practitioners.

Electronic histology reports will be introduced to the Register which will reduce processing time and significantly reduce the manual paperwork.

The new Register will align with the NH&MRC Guidelines for the Management of Asymptomatic Women with Screen Detected Abnormalities. A revised and automated process for medical practitioner and client follow up reminders will be implemented. This benefit should eliminate any discrepancies between laboratory

recommendations for treatment of women and the follow-up reminder.

The new Register has increased capability resulting in improved State and Commonwealth reporting requirements. This includes the mandatory reporting and safety monitoring for the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), NATA Laboratory Performance Measures and the Tasmanian Cancer Registry.

HPV Testing

HPV Testing is an important step in the treatment of women with high grade abnormalities and the new TCCR will have the capacity to store HPV test results. There is also the potential for the Register to provide Medical Practitioners with information on clients who are eligible for testing.

The Human Papilloma Virus test has become known as the 'Test of Cure' and is used 12-24 months following the treatment of high grade cervical intraepithelial abnormalities to assess treatment effectiveness. The new NH&MRC Guidelines (released in July 2006) outlined that women who have been diagnosed and treated for high grade squamous intraepithelial lesions (HSIL) both pre and post new Guidelines, should undergo cervical cytology screening and HPV testing annually until a negative result is received on both tests on two consecutive occasions twelve months apart. The HPV testing is subsidised by the government until a negative result is received on two consecutive occasions. Further testing is not covered by Medicare.

If you require further information, please visit the National Cancer Screening website at www.cancerscreening.gov.au and follow the links to the National Cervical Screening Program and NHMRC Cervical Guidelines page. If you have further queries, please contact the Tasmanian Cervical Cytology Register on 13 15 56.

