

Cervical Cancer Prevention Program

HPV DNA Testing and the Pap Smear Register

Following the implementation of the new Pap smear Register at the end of June 2008, the Register now has the capacity to store HPV DNA test results for Tasmanian women. This is an exciting improvement to the Register that will enable Tasmania to align with the National Health and Medical Research Council (NH&MRC) guidelines. **HPV DNA Testing is an important step in the management of women with high grade abnormalities.** There is also the potential for the Register to provide Medical Practitioners with information on clients who are eligible for testing.

HPV DNA Testing – Useful Information

- The new NH&MRC Guidelines (2005) outlined that women who have been diagnosed and treated (both pre and post new Guidelines) for high grade squamous intraepithelial lesions (HSIL), should undergo cervical cytology screening and HPV DNA testing annually until a negative result is received on both tests on two consecutive occasions twelve months apart.
- HPV DNA testing is very sensitive and is considered a useful tool for predicting which women with a history of HSIL are at the greatest risk of recurrence.
- HPV DNA testing is used to monitor the effectiveness of the treatment and once negative results are received on both tests on two consecutive occasions twelve months apart, the woman can return to the normal two yearly screening interval.

How the Pap Smear Register can assist

The new Pap smear Register has the ability to identify Tasmanian women who have been treated for high grade cervical abnormalities and who are eligible for the HPV DNA test. The Registry can provide medical practitioners with lists of women attending their practice who may be eligible for this test. However, the lists of women sent to practices should be considered indicative only, as it is recognised by the Register and Screening Program that there may be other considerations that will affect clinical decisions made by practitioners in consultation with their patients.

Medicare Rebates for HPV DNA Testing

Medicare refundable

- HPV DNA Testing is eligible for a Medicare rebate for women who are being followed up after treatment for a high grade squamous intraepithelial (HSIL) abnormality (with a maximum of two HPV DNA tests in a 24 month period).
- A Gap payment will apply if 'rebate only' is not requested.

Non Medicare refundable

- Where there is no history of treated HSIL, a HPV DNA test is not eligible for a Medicare rebate.

If you require more information, please visit the National Cancer Screening website at www.cancerscreening.gov.au and follow the links to the National Cervical Screening Program and HPV DNA testing page.

The Register protects the privacy and confidentiality of cervical cancer test results.

If you have further queries, please contact the Tasmanian Cervical Cytology Register on 13 15 56.

