

Changes to Cervical Screening

On the 12th of September we are going live with a new national cervical screening program. This is available for 25-69-year-old, patients with a cervix who are due for a cervical smear.

For most people it will involve a swab test that can be done by yourself or a clinician and will be sent to the lab to check for a virus called Human Papilloma Virus (HPV).

If this is negative for HPV you will be recalled in 5 years' time.

If it is positive for HPV your clinician will advise the next steps. This could involve having a cytology test (smear test). It may require a referral to colposcopy.

The research shows that 85% of cervical cancers occur in unscreened or infrequently screened patients. In order to support an increased uptake for our patients there will be funding for Community Services Card holders, Pacific and Maori patients, unscreened over 30-year-old, patients not screened for over 5 years or anyone requiring follow up.

You will be recalled as normal when you are due for your cervical screening/HPV test.

Your smear taker will explain this process in more detail and ensure you have the appropriate follow up when your results are reported.

