



Dear colleagues,

Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario) is pleased to announce that the human papillomavirus (HPV) test will replace cytology as the primary test for cervical screening and will also be used for follow-up testing in colposcopy. Information about the launch date for HPV testing is available at ontariohealth.ca/hpvhub.

HPV testing is reflective of advances in technology that will benefit Ontarians. The HPV test is more accurate than cytology and will improve detection of cervical pre-cancer. The improved performance of HPV testing allows for longer intervals between screens for people who test negative for HPV. In addition, new guidance for management and follow-up will minimize repeat testing and support timely discharge from colposcopy.

The implementation of HPV testing will result in changes to the Ontario Cervical Screening Program (OCSP)'s cervical screening and colposcopy recommendations:

- The age of cervical screening initiation will be 25.
- New screening intervals, indications for referral to colposcopy and cessation criteria will come into effect.
- HPV testing will be used in colposcopy to determine eligibility for discharge and the recommended interval for screening post-discharge from colposcopy.

There are also process changes that providers need to be aware of:

- The new OCSP cervical screening requisition must be used to order program-related HPV and cytology tests for eligible participants.
- Program-related specimens must be collected using the ThinPrep® system. Any specimens collected using SurePath™ will be rejected. Please see the How to collect a cervical sample tool for other tips on avoiding rejections.
- All program-related tests will be performed by LifeLabs, Dynacare or North Bay Regional Health Centre. More information on working with these laboratory partners can be found in the *Frequently Asked Questions*.

Family doctors, nurse practitioners, midwives and other allied health providers are key partners in the successful implementation of HPV testing. Several resources have been developed to help you prepare for the upcoming change and are available at ontariohealth.ca/hpvhub. In addition, laboratories will provide hard copies of the resources when you order your first delivery of cervical screening supplies.

Resources:

- Guide to cervical screening
- Guide to resuming cervical screening post-discharge from colposcopy
- How to collect a cervical sample
- Frequently asked questions
- Cervical screening HPV and cytology tests requisition form and instructions

If you have any questions, please contact Ontario Health toll free at 1.866.662.9233 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday or email us at cancerinfo@ontariohealth.ca.

Thank you for supporting the successful implementation of HPV testing in Ontario.

Sincerely,



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