

# NCSP WAIKATO NEWSLETTER

MAY | MAE | HARATUA 2021

**\*\*FOCUS ON CLOSING GAPS ... STRIVING FOR EQUALITY AND EQUITY\*\***

As you would have seen and heard, there has been a lot of media attention around cervical screening. Following Labour MP Kiritapu Allans cervical cancer diagnosis in April 2021. On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021 the first pre-announcement for Budget 2021 confirmed \$53 million towards HPV self testing implementation. Government release link below.

<https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/budget-delivers-improved-cervical-and-breast-cancer-screening>.

NCSP HPV update and advice attached in email.

## What does that mean for us on the ground floor?

- Roll out is aimed for 2023
- HPV self test is a vaginal swab that checks for HPV which causes 99% of cervical cancers
- It is a test to see if someone needs a cervical screening test
- This will not fully replace our current screening test yet. As some will prefer current test and some it will be recommended for in light of any clinical symptoms
- HPV vaccination is the first prevention for our <27yrs
- Continue with current screening processes
- Please look at reminders & recommendations in the following pages

What we can do NOW is to think more outside of our “business as usual” practices, to close barriers on access and strive for equality and equity. Our newsletter this month covers reminders, recommendations and information to share and korero about within all our practices, with our colleagues, our whanau and communities.

## REMINDER: “FREE” CERVICAL SCREENING PRIORITY GROUPS

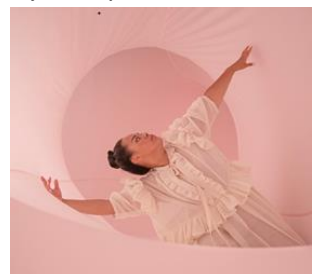
To improve cervical screening coverage and contribute to reducing inequalities in health outcomes, funding is provided to all practices in all localities to ensure screening is provided at NO COST to Priority Groups.

### **THERE SHOULD BE “NO” SURCHARGES OR EXTRA COSTS FROM PRACTICES FOR THOSE WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FREE CERVICAL SCREENING**

*\*Please be discretionary of those who may owe money on their clinic accounts. To ensure this doesn't impact on them being turned away for their free cervical screen. Remind all front line and admin staff about the Priority Group Criteria.*

Priority Groups eligible for free cervical screening in the Waikato are:

- Maori, Pacific or Asian ethnicity, regardless of age
- ≥30 years, regardless of ethnicity AND has never had a cervical screen in NZ (un-screened)
- ≥30 years, regardless of ethnicity AND is ≥5yrs since their last screen (under-screened)



## **CAN WE SCREEN EARLY – Yes we can**

With recent highlighting of cervical screening in the media, many are opting to screen early and that is ok

- If someone is due in October and presents in May, that's ok, screen them
- If someone is due in October 2022, on a 3yr recall and wants to screen in May 2021, that's ok, screen them
- Of course we don't suggest over-screening. i.e. if someone had a screen in February and wants another in May, unless they have clinical symptoms then a good chat would be warranted/get them to ring us

## **CAN WE SCREEN THOSE NOT REGISTERED IN OUR PRACTICE – Yes we can**

Our mobile nurses do this all the time. Practices who have run smear events do this also.

- Enroll them as a casual
- Do cervical screen
- Copy result to their GP
- There should be NO surcharges or extra charges for any who fall into the Priority Group regardless of not being a registered patient, you can claim these back

## **CAN WE SCREEN THOSE WHO ARE NON-RESIDENTS – Yes we can**

As our borders remain in limbo many are here longer and unable to return to their own country.

These are a cost to the patient, including any follow up if a referral to Colposcopy is required.

Ensuring the patient is fully aware of this and documenting all will safeguard both parties

- Screen and give sample to patient to take to lab
- \$48 cost to patient at lab
- \$139.50 approx HPV add on
- \$60 approx PCR swab
- \$35 approx HVS swab

## **LAB TURN AROUND TIMES A LITTLE LONGER**

You may have noticed that results are taking a little longer to be received. Previously they could have been as early as 2-3 days, please rest assured these are being processed and could take up to 14 days.

## **SUPPORT TO SCREENING**

Reminder to check criteria and refer those hard to reach Priority Group Women due cervical screening.

For those who don't fit the Priority Group criteria, we encourage practices to:

- Include the option of home visiting yourselves as independent screeners
- Look into after hour / weekend clinics
- Look at running an event
- Gifts, incentives
- We are happy to support where we can too

## **RESOURCES**

- <https://www.healthed.govt.nz/> order / download pamphlets, posters here
- <https://www.hpa.org.nz/start-to-screen-resources>
- <https://www.hpv.org.nz/resources/consumer-resources> really good HPV pamphlets free to order here
- <https://www.nsu.govt.nz/health-professionals/national-cervical-screening-programme> policies, coverage rates

## HPV VACCINATION - Overdue HPV report coming in June

NIR sent out in November 2020 an HPV overdue report to practices for 25 to 26 year olds that had not completed their HPV programme – we hope you found these useful for doing a bit of a catch up for these people and getting them in. NIR will be doing this again June 2021. Thank you for all your feedback that enabled staff to update NIR and for getting some of these outstanding vaccinations done!

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/health/300281486/hpv-vaccine-uptake-languishing-below-target-amid-rising-cancer-rates>

Uptake of a vaccine which protects against infection and can prevent cancers languishes behind the national 75% target – a “poor cousin” which doesn't get the attention it needs. Most recent data collected by the Ministry of Health show HPV vaccination uptake is low, amid rising rates of head and neck, penile and anal cancers.

It is likely that one-third of young people have either missed out on the full course, or haven't had both doses – leaving them unprotected. There is also no recall process for those who aren't fully protected.

There are about 25,000 abnormal smear test results among women and people with a cervix every year, resulting in invasive procedures. If you prevent the HPV virus, you could “almost eradicate abnormal smears”.

### NIR ADVICE WHEN ENTERING HPV DOSES

When loading HPVs, enter these under the HPV schedule as HPV9 Dose 1, 2 or 3.

Please DO NOT enter under HPV bivalent. This will save errors appearing either side



### NCSP ADVICE FOR >70yrs

Older women do get cervical cancer in significant numbers and our understanding from the literature and clinical practice is that most women who develop cervical cancer after 70 years are unscreened or under-screened.

The NCSP therefore encourages practices to be proactive at recalling older women for screening if they were not adequately screened in their sixties. Or who present with clinical symptoms.

*Clinical Practice Guidelines for Cervical Screening in New Zealand 2020* states that:

- Adequate screening is at least two consecutive normal cytology samples between 62 and 69 years.
- People who have not been adequately screened at a younger age and who have not had two normal cytology samples reported between 62 and 69 years of age should have two cervical cytology samples taken 12 months apart, and can cease screening if both are negative.
- Similarly, women who are unscreened should have two consecutive normal cytology samples taken 12 months apart before ceasing cytology screening.

Nationally, cervical cancer is not reducing in older women. Increasing screening in this age group has a lot of potential to prevent cervical cancer, and save women from the distress, investigation and treatment of a major malignancy in their older years.

It is hoped that these guidelines will encourage practices to ensure that women are well screened in their sixties so they can safely cease screening at 69 years of age. **There is no end age in the guidelines.** Older women vary considerably in latter years and practices should use their clinical discretion to guide the decision about whether or not to pursue screening in under/unscreened women in this age group.

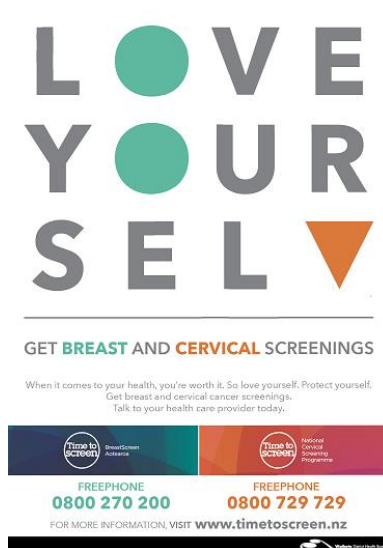
## TOP (TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY) CLINIC - 0800 328271 - nurses, doctors and women can all ring this number

- \*TOP clinic do not do smears
- \*If a woman is overdue, due or due soon(ish) please do a smear in the consult + referral process
- \*TOP clinic requests that Contraception is talked about in the consult + referral process
- Women can self-refer, TOP clinic will arrange bloods, scan, swabs
- Clinic referral is via BPAC and should include:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> antenatal + hcg bloods
  - HVS and PCR swabs, MC+S
  - Dating scan (reliable from 6/52). Hamilton Radiology approx. \$30, all other radiology should be free
  - PLUS a smear if overdue, due, due soon(ish)
  - PLUS contraception chat
- Non-resident women can go private via AMAC Auckland or Rotorua, cost is approx. \$1,500

## BREAST SCREENING MOBILE DATES

Thinking about opportunities for dual screening, give us a call

| Town           | Start Day | Last Day |
|----------------|-----------|----------|
| Thames         | 03 May    | 21 May   |
| Mataamata      | 26 May    | 09 Jul   |
| Taumarunui     | 14 Jun    | 16 Jul   |
| Putaruru       | 19 Jun    | 11 Aug   |
| Raglan         | 09 Aug    | 27 Aug   |
| Tokoroa        | 16 Aug    | 15 Oct   |
| Piopio         | 30 Aug    | 07 Sep   |
| Te Kuiti       | 08 Sep    | 15 Oct   |
| Kawhia         | 18 Oct    | 20 Oct   |
| Ngaruawahia    | 18 Oct    | 12 Nov   |
| Huntly         | 26 Oct    | 03 Dec   |
| Kirikiri Marae | 15 Nov    | 26 Nov   |
| Ngatea         | 29 Nov    | 10 Dec   |



LOVE YOURSELF

GET BREAST AND CERVICAL SCREENINGS

When it comes to your health, you're worth it. So love yourself. Protect yourself. Get breast and cervical cancer screenings. Talk to your health care provider today.

**Time to Screen** BreastScreen Auckland  
**Time to Screen** National Cervical Screening Programme

**FREEPHONE 0800 270 200**  
**FREEPHONE 0800 729 729**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [www.timetoscreen.nz](http://www.timetoscreen.nz)

## CERVICAL SCREENING EMAIL

You can now email queries direct to [cervicalscreening@waikatodhb.health.nz](mailto:cervicalscreening@waikatodhb.health.nz)

Lead up to going fax-less in the future

## CERVICAL SCREENING ANNUAL UPDATE 2021

SAVE THE DATE: THURSDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 6-8.30PM, BECAUDITORIUM, WAIKATO HOSPITAL

\*Agenda attached in email

*Tena rawa atu koutou mo o koutou mahi*

*Thank you for all you do in preventing cervical cancer and hpv related cancers, we appreciate you all*