

# Cervix Screening in BC: Transitioning from Cytology (Pap Test) to HPV Primary Screening

December 2023 Update

On January 29<sup>th</sup>, cervix screening in BC will start to transition from cytology (Pap test) to HPV testing as the primary screening method. Here is a summary of what will be new:

What are the sample collection options?



**Self-screening:** Patient collects their own sample with an HPV vaginal self-screening swab.

OR



**Provider-collected liquid-based cytology (LBC) sample:** The same collection method and device currently used for cervix screening (*no change*).

What is the screening test?

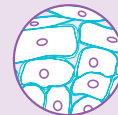


**Primary HPV screening for:**

- Self-screening samples
- Provider-collected (LBC) samples\* of patients age 55 and over

Average risk patients who have a negative HPV screen will be recommended to screen again in **5 years**.

OR



**Primary cytology screening for provider-collected (LBC) samples\* of patients age 54 and under**

Average risk patients who have a normal cytology result will be recommended to screen again in **3 years**.

\*If a provider-collected (LBC) sample tests positive for HPV or an abnormal cytology result, the lab will **reflex test** the sample for cytology (in the case of a positive HPV result) or HPV (in the case of a positive abnormal cytology result).

How will eligible patients access cervix self-screening?



Patients who have never screened and those with a previous 36-month screening recommendation will be able to **request a self-screening kit from the Cervix Screening Program** by phone or online.

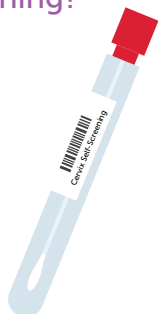
The Cervix Screening Program will mail a self-screening kit to the patient, and the patient will drop off the completed kit to a Canada Post office or post box.

OR



**Through a clinic:** Clinics that would like to have self-screening swabs on hand will be able to provide a swab to the patient to collect their own sample.

The clinic will return samples to the Lab in the same way they currently return LBC samples.



# Looking for more information?



Go to [www.screeningbc.ca/hpvtransition](http://www.screeningbc.ca/hpvtransition) or scan the QR code for resources to help you prepare for the transition.

New and updated materials will be posted in the coming weeks:

Bookmark the page!

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [www.screeningbc.ca/hpvtransition](http://www.screeningbc.ca/hpvtransition). The page features several content blocks:

- Resource Guide:** A card for "HPV Primary Screening: A Resource Guide for Health Care Providers" with a BC Cancer logo and an image of a person using a swab.
- Program Overview:** A card titled "BC Cancer Cervix Screening Program Overview" with a large "PO" graphic.
- Update Bulletins:** A card titled "Cervix Screening in BC: Transitioning from Cytology (Pap Test) to HPV Primary Screening" dated October 2023. It includes text about the transition starting in January 2024 and a diagram showing the shift from Cytology to HPV Screening.
- Videos featuring Clinical Experts:** Two video thumbnails. One features Dr. Gina Ogilvie, and the other features Dr. Lily Proctor.
- UBC CPD Webinar Recording:** A card titled "At New Policy Launch: January 2024" comparing "Provider-Collected Cervix Screening" and "Cervix Self-Screening". It includes a diagram showing the combination of the two methods and a "Cervix Screening" swab box.



Contact [Melissa.Yan@bccancer.bc.ca](mailto:Melissa.Yan@bccancer.bc.ca) to subscribe to email updates.

We will notify you when:

- Resources have been finalized, published and are ready to order;
- Self-screening swabs are available to order for your clinic; and
- New learning opportunities and webinars become available.