

NCSP Sector Update August 2023

**12 SEPTEMBER 2023 – GO LIVE FOR HPV TESTING AND
NEW PRIORITY FUNDING**

HPV primary screening and cervical screening services for priority groups will soon ‘go live.’

Sector training is currently underway, and we are continuing to answer questions as they arise.

The Updated Timeline provides information related to training and collateral availability ahead of the 12 September 2023 ‘go live’ date.

Please read on for the latest information.

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Encouraging participation

Changes to cervical screening from 12 September 2023 are designed to reduce cases of cervical cancer in Aotearoa New Zealand. Human Papillomavirus (HPV) testing as primary screening will be much easier for most participants to undertake and also allows more pre-cancers to be identified.

New HPV testing means most participants, after consultation with their healthcare provider, will be able to choose one of two cervical screening test options:

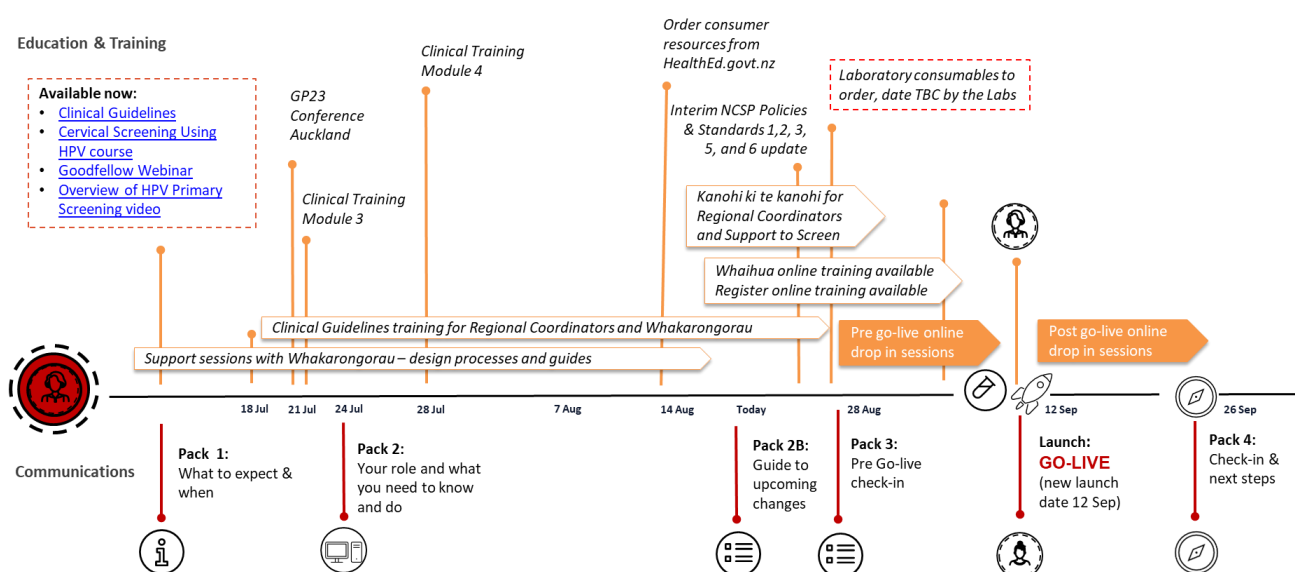
- HPV vaginal swab test, either a self-test or assisted by a clinician
- A clinician-taken cervical specimen, previously referred to as a smear test, which is tested for HPV. If HPV is detected cytology will be processed automatically without the person needing to return for another test.

New information technology solutions will 'go live' on 12 September 2023. The new NCSP-Register will make it easier to invite those not regularly screening to take part, offer support needed to attend screenings or follow up services (such as transport assistance), and make answers to common screening questions more accessible. It will also make it easier for people to know when they are due for their next appointment.

Te Whatu Ora is finalising details related to the new funding package made available to reduce barriers to screening and encourage participation in the programme; an update will be provided as soon as information is available.

Anyone due or overdue for screening is still encouraged to get screened now using the current procedures and testing. The current cervical screening test (often called a smear test) is safe and effective in protecting against cervical cancer.

Updated Timeline: September Go-Live



eLearning modules now available

A 4-module clinical eLearning course for HPV primary screening is now available on [LearnOnline](#). [Cervical Screening Using Human Papillomavirus \(HPV\) Testing](#) is essential learning for cervical sample-takers. You can create an account for LearnOnline [here](#), if you don't already have one.

Modules must be completed sequentially. There is a 10-to-15 minute delay after completing a module before you can access the next one. All four modules must be completed to receive a Certificate of Completion.

The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (RNZCGP) has approved the eLearning modules and informed us that:

The “Cervical Screening Using Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Testing” activity has been endorsed by The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (RNZCGP) and has been approved for up to 1 CME Credit per Module for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) purposes.



GPs can now obtain 1 credit per module – a great incentive to get them completed. The RNZCGP endorsement is valid for one year, expiring on 31 August 2024.

If you have any questions about the modules or other training, please [email us](#).

Module 1 (~60 minutes)

[Introduction to Cervical Screening Using Human Papillomavirus \(HPV\) Testing](#) provides:

- an overview of cervical screening in Aotearoa New Zealand,
- an introduction to the new Clinical Practice Guidelines for cervical screening,
- an understanding of HPV and its role in the development of cervical cancer; and
- information on HPV vaccination, HPV testing, and pathways.

Module 2 (~30 minutes)

[Navigating the Cervical Screening pathways - practising using the pathways with various cases](#), presents:

- a series of examples of how to interpret the cervical screening pathways in the Clinical Practice Guidelines for Cervical Screening in Aotearoa New Zealand; and
- a further 13 scenarios, to give you a chance to check your understanding and apply the guidelines to each situation.

Module 3 (~30 minutes)

[Cervical Screening in Aotearoa New Zealand – History and Context](#) provides an overview of:

- the History of the National Cervical Screening Programme, including the National Kaitiaki Group, and the Register;
- the persisting inequities in cervical screening;
- aligning with new health reforms; and
- reflecting on practice to improve health equity.

Module 4 (~60 minutes)

[Talking about Cervical Screening and HPV](#) covers:

- talking to your patients about HPV primary screening;
- barriers to screening;
- how to have culturally-safe and effective conversations about cervical screening; and
- how to share test results with your patients.

PHO Report update

There will be no report sent out in September so IT systems have time to transition to HPV primary screening and for reporting to be thoroughly tested. The last PHO data match report in its current form will be sent on 25 August 2023.

The new PHO data match report will be called the *PHO cervical screening status report* and will be delivered on 20 October 2023. Monthly reporting will resume thereafter.

The new PHO report will be updated to be fit for purpose in the new HPV Primary Screening programme – this includes (but it is not limited to) updating most recent event, next expected event, and due dates in accordance with the new clinical pathway.

An example of the new report along with guidelines detailing the new variables and fields will be available week commencing 28 August – it will be emailed to all current recipients.

Family Planning Report update

There will be no report sent out in September to allow the data IT systems sufficient time to transition to HPV primary screening and the reporting to be thoroughly tested to ensure complete and accurate data. The last Family Planning data match report in its current form will be sent out on 25 August 2023.

The Family Planning report will be updated to be fit for purpose in the new HPV Primary Screening programme and will be renamed the *Family Planning cervical screening status report*; it will first be delivered on 20 October 2023. Monthly reporting will resume thereafter.

An example of the new report along with guidelines detailing the new variables and fields will be available week commencing 28 August – emailed to key contacts

NCSP coverage report update

The NCSP coverage report will be updated as usual on 25th August 2023; this will cover reporting for 1 – 31 July 2023. There will be no report sent out in September— this is to allow the data IT systems sufficient time to transition to HPV primary screening and the reporting to be thoroughly tested to ensure complete and accurate data.

The NCSP coverage report will be updated on 25th October and include coverage up to and including 30 September 2023.

There will be a change to the coverage calculation from October onwards to align with the transition to HPV primary screening. Additional details will be provided in the technical notes of NCSP coverage report. Monthly reporting will resume thereafter.

Answering your questions

We received some questions following the announcement of \$7.3m in additional funding made last month. See [here](#) for responses.

Clinical Practice Guidelines 2023 available now

NCSP Clinical Practice Guidelines 2023 for Cervical Screening in Aotearoa New Zealand are now available for use when HPV testing becomes the primary screen for cervical cancer prevention.

The 2023 Guidelines can be found on the [NSU Health Professionals' website](#).

Interim NCSP Policies and Standards available

Information on the NSU website about HPV primary screening is currently in the process of being updated.

We are confident of the clinical quality of the programme as articulated in the updated interim Policies and Standards. The updated interim Policies and Standards have been released as interim to allow time for them to bed in with the sector and provide the opportunity for feedback to inform final versions. As the sector works with them there may be things that need to be updated.

Opportunities to feedback on the Policies and Standards will be communicated through stakeholder groups.

- [INTERIM - Section 1: Tiro Whānui Overview](#)
- [INTERIM - Section 2: Providing Register Services](#)
- [INTERIM - Section 3: Cervical Screening Services](#)
- [INTERIM - Section 5: Providing a Laboratory Service](#)
- [INTERIM - Section 6: Providing a Colposcopy Service](#)

Preparing for September 2023 NCSP changes

We recently sent out **Pack 2: Your Role – what you need know and do** about HPV and cervical screening, which is available [here](#).

Pack 2 contains:

- Overview;
- Timeline – activity updates;
- What this means for your role: training and further information; and
- Follow – up and support.

We encourage everyone to read this pack (5- 10 mins) so you know what's happening and what you can expect from us over the coming weeks. Please feel free to share this information.

[Pack 2B](#) is also available from today and can be accessed using the links below if you haven't yet received a copy.

If you didn't receive this information, please [email us](#) to be added to our distribution list.

Nine to Noon interview available

National Screening Unit Clinical Director Jane O'Hallahan was interviewed recently on Radio New Zealand's *Nine to Noon* programme. During the interview she explained the benefits of the move towards HPV testing as primary screening for cervical cancer. You can listen to the interview [here](#).

Training for those in Regional Coordination and Screening Support

A series of kanohi ki te kanohi (face-to-face) training sessions have been arranged in August around the motu. NCSP Project team members, including clinical staff, will be present at each of the sessions. A trainer will lead each session.

Morning sessions will include information related to the new NCSP-Register, support, and readiness. Screening Support Services will receive Whaihua, support, and readiness training in the afternoon.

Session locations and dates are:

Location	Date
Tāmaki Makaurau (Auckland)	15 August 2023
Tauranga	16 August 2023
Ōtautahi (Christchurch)	22 August 2023
Karanema (Havelock North)	23 August 2023
Te Papa-i-Oea (Palmerston North)	24 August 2023
Te Whanganui-a-Tara (Wellington)	28 August 2023
Te Tai Tokerau (Kerikeri)	29 August 2023

Primary Care online hui invitation

An invitation is also extended to *Getting ready for HPV testing as primary screening for cervical cancer*, an online hui for PHOs taking place at 11am on 21 August 2023. Please [email us](#) if you'd like a link to the event.

We'll have details of an upcoming Health Pathways national GP education webinar in an upcoming edition of the Sector Update.

HPV primary screening – Lab talks

Dr Margaret Sage, the NCSP Clinical Lead, Pathology and National Cervical Pathology Training Service (NCPTS) Cytopathologist, has provided information videos for HPV primary screening, written to train lab staff. The videos are free to access and available on the [National Cervical Pathology Training Service website](#). No login is required, and you can access the videos by clicking on the HPV primary screening training in the top left-hand corner of the website homepage.

A set of ten multiple choice questions are available after each talk for you to practise applying guidelines in clinical scenarios. Anyone is free to answer the questions and you'll simply need to input a name when instructed if you'd like to answer the questions.

We encourage people to work through the questions as it can help you think about the guidelines. You are welcome to use a pseudonym, or fake name, if you prefer.

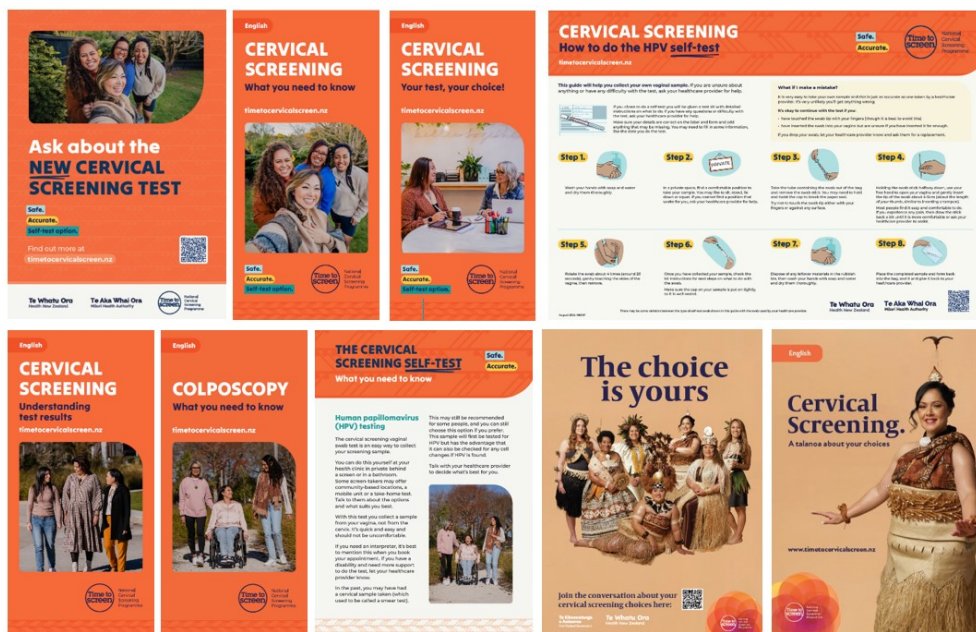
Cervical screening resources now available from HealthEd

The foundation set of updated and new cervical screening Resources, in English and Te Reo Māori, is now available to order free from [HealthEd](#). Please let those responsible for ordering your materials know to order as soon as possible for printed collaterals to arrive in time for 12 September 2023, the NCSP 'go live' date.

Providers who have an email address listed on HealthPoint, or who have ordered cervical screening resources through [HealthEd](#) in the past year are being sent an email confirming resources are available. Please [let us know](#) if you think we may not have your clinic's email to ensure you are included in this update.

The first set of resources are available in English and Te Reo Māori. They have been designed to support understanding, decision-making, and aid informed consent.

Further materials will be added to [HealthEd](#) as they become available, so check for updates – especially if you're after additional translations.



Protecting against HPV

HPV is one of the causes of head and neck cancers and around 500 people each year in Aotearoa New Zealand are diagnosed with these types of cancers. The best way to protect tamariki against HPV is to get them immunised.

HPV vaccination is free for everyone aged 9 to 26 years and can help prevent head and neck cancers later in life.

Tamariki are typically offered the HPV vaccine in Year 7 or 8 at school when a pre-teen's immune system is best at creating long-lasting protection — and before many young people have been exposed to HPV.

Tamariki at schools not offering the HPV vaccine may also access it through their GP.

Information about the HPV vaccine may be found on the [Immunise website](#).



Further Information available

[NSU Website](#)

The HPV Primary Screening pages on the Health Professionals section of the National Screening Unit website have been updated and made more user-friendly. From the HPV Primary Screening landing page, you can click onto pages which give a background to the transition to HPV testing as the primary screen for cervical cancer prevention; role-specific information; resources and guidelines; overview of the new NCSP-Register; links to legislation and to the NCSP Advisory and Action Rōpū.

[Resources Page](#)

We continue to update our Resources page on the NSU website.

[Overview of HPV Primary Screening educational video](#)

Provides health sector professionals a high-level background on the benefits of transition to HPV testing as primary screening for the prevention of cervical cancer.

[NSU Goodfellow webinar](#)

A webinar hosted by the Goodfellow Unit focused on the transition to HPV primary screening. We have provided [answers to questions](#) raised at the webinar, which were not answered on the night.

[Parliamentary Review Committee into the NCSP](#)

The 2021 Parliamentary Review Committee (PRC) report into the NCSP has been tabled in the House of Representatives and is published on the [NSU website](#). Alongside the report is a summary

document outlining Te Whatu Ora's response and next steps. The NCSP is engaging on the action plan.

[Immunisation Update](#)

School-based Immunisation Programme collateral like consent forms for use by health professionals.

[Support to Screening Services](#)

The web page for Support to Screening Services teams working with both the National Cervical Screening Programme (NCSP) and BreastScreen Aotearoa (BSA).

Screening support services are available for eligible wāhine/whānau who are referred to, or who independently access services from the support to screening providers. This support can assist wāhine/whānau who experience barriers to accessing breast and cervical screening, assessment, and treatment services. Some support to screening providers have mobile teams who make community visits and home visits, while others are based in clinics around the motu.

[Coverage app](#)

The app has recently been updated and is now available.

Get in touch with us

Have requests, suggestions, or something else you'd like to talk to us about? Please let us know by [emailing us](#). We'd love to hear from you!