

# National Cervical Screening Program

## Pathology Test Guide for Cervical and Vaginal Testing^

Patient presents as	Context*	Age	Sample	Test type	Write on the pathology request form:
Asymptomatic	NCSP routine 5-yearly screening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only one of this MBS item is claimable in a 57-month period</li> <li>Can be clinician collected or self-collected</li> </ul>	≥ 24yrs & 9mths < 75 years	Vaginal Cervical	HPV test	Cervical Screening Test (CST) HPV test
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following a self-collect test result of HPV (not 16/18) detected</li> </ul>	Any age	Cervical	Standalone LBC	Liquid Based cytology (LBC)
Asymptomatic	Screening in specific populations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immune-deficient, every three years</li> </ul>	≥ 24yrs & 9mths < 75 years			HPV test, Immune-deficient
Asymptomatic	Early sexual debut, prior to 14 years and not vaccinated prior to sexual debut (only one claimable between 20 to 24 years of age)	Any age	Cervical	HPV test	HPV test, early sexual debut
	Follow-up test claimable after previous positive screening test (12-month repeat) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can be clinician collected or self-collected</li> </ul>				Follow-up HPV test
	Test of cure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following treatment of HSIL</li> </ul>			HPV test	Test of cure, HSIL
	Ongoing surveillance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following excisional treatment of Adenocarcinoma-in-situ (AIS)</li> <li>DES exposed in utero</li> </ul>			Co-test (HPV & LBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Co-test” or “HPV &amp; LBC” Post-treatment of AIS</li> <li>“Co-test” or “HPV &amp; LBC”, DES</li> </ul>
Symptomatic <sup>1</sup>	For investigation of symptoms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Abnormal vaginal bleeding (post-coital, unexplained inter-menstrual or any post-menopausal)</li> <li>Unexplained persistent unusual discharge (especially if offensive and/or blood stained)</li> </ul>	Any age	Cervical	Co-test (HPV & LBC)	“Co-test” or “HPV & LBC”, symptoms of possible cervical cancer
	If due for cervical screening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vaginal discharge (other than persistent or unusual)</li> <li>Deep dyspareunia (in the absence of bleeding or discharge)</li> </ul>			HPV test	CST HPV test
HPV test after total hysterectomy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No evidence of prior participation in the National Cervical Screening Program; or</li> <li>LSIL or HSIL identified in hysterectomy specimen; or</li> <li>Following previously treated HSIL, Test of Cure incomplete</li> </ul>	Any age	Vaginal vault	HPV test	Vaginal vault, HPV test
	Histologically confirmed Adenocarcinoma-in-situ diagnosed at, or before, hysterectomy	Any age	Vaginal vault	Co-test (HPV & LBC)	“Vaginal vault, co-test”, test of cure AIS
Repeat test following an unsatisfactory test	Following an unsatisfactory test: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only claimable when preceded by another cervical or vaginal MBS Item</li> </ul>	Any age	Cervical	HPV test	HPV test, previous result unsatisfactory
			Vaginal		
			Cervical	LBC	LBC, previous result unsatisfactory

^ For more information see the booklet, *Understanding the National Cervical Screening Program Management Pathway – a Guide for Healthcare Providers*

\* Further appropriate use scenarios are outlined in the 2025 Guidelines, accessible from [www.cancer.org.au/clinical-guidelines/cervical-cancer/cervical-cancer-screening](http://www.cancer.org.au/clinical-guidelines/cervical-cancer/cervical-cancer-screening)

<sup>1</sup> Persistence of any unexplained gynaecological symptoms should always warrant further investigation and referral as appropriate.