



Australian Government

NATIONAL
CERVICAL SCREENING
PROGRAM
A joint Australian, state and territory government program

Cervical screening could save your life

This is a resource for you and your doctor to read together.

AROUND
70%

of cervical cancers
are found in people
who do not screen
regularly

Who can screen

You can get a Cervical Screening Test every 5 years if you meet the following:



☐ Aged 25 to 74 years old



☐ Are a woman or person with a cervix

If you're under 25 or over 75, you can still ask to have a Cervical Screening Test. Talk to your healthcare provider.



Sexual history

Anyone who has ever had sexual contact (of any kind, with anyone). If you have questions about whether you should screen, talk to your healthcare provider.

What is the Cervical Screening Test?

The Cervical Screening Test is a simple process that looks for signs of the human papillomavirus (HPV) – a common infection that causes most cervical cancers.

You can choose to have a healthcare provider collect your sample using a speculum, or you can do it yourself at the clinic using a simple swab.

HPV usually doesn't cause pain or other signs at first. Screening allows you and your healthcare provider to find and watch HPV before it causes any cell changes (i.e. cancer).

If you are pregnant

It is safe to undergo a Cervical Screening Test while pregnant – please just let your healthcare provider know.

If you have a disability

People with disability have the same risk of cervical cancer. When you are making your appointment, tell the staff about any requirements you may have.

Information for non-binary and trans people with a cervix

The National Cervical Screening Program respects and values people of all genders. We want to make sure everyone with a cervix can access screening.



Important note

Self-collection is not suitable if you have symptoms or if you need a co-test. If HPV is found on a self-collected sample, you will need to return for a follow-up speculum examination with your doctor.

Talk to your healthcare provider today about organising a self-collection swab or preparing for your upcoming appointment.



Find out more:
health.gov.au/ncsp

Or call the National Cancer Screening Register
on **1800 627 701**



If you need an interpreter,
please call **13 14 50**

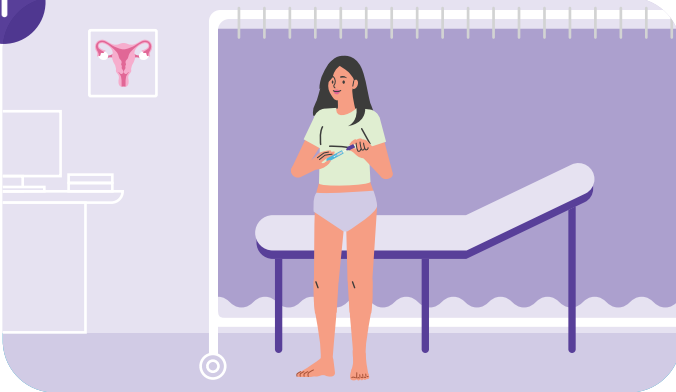
**These resources are available
in other languages**

Prefer to do a self-collected test?

You can take the sample yourself in private, or with help from your doctor, nurse or health worker.

Here is what you can expect:

1



Private room

Your doctor will give you a private space to take your sample. You will twist open the tube and remove the long swab without touching the soft tip.

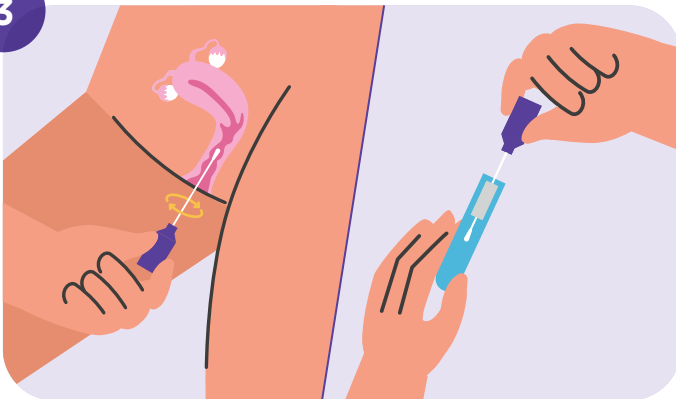
2



Swab insertion

Gently hold back the skin around your vagina with one hand. Insert the soft tip of the swab a few centimetres into your vagina.

3



Sample collection

Gently spin the swab in a circle for 10 to 30 seconds. This should not hurt but may feel uncomfortable. Put it back in the tube, twist it shut, and give it back to your healthcare provider.

4



Lab and testing

Your healthcare provider will send your sample to a pathology laboratory to be tested and they send the results to the requesting healthcare provider.

How your doctor can help

Your doctor can check whether you are due to screen, explain the benefits of screening, how to do it, and discuss any concerns. They can help you decide if screening is right for you based on current evidence and your personal preferences.

Cost and Rebate

Medicare covers the pathology cost of the test every 5 years (eligible 4 years and 9 months after your last test). A consultation fee with your healthcare provider may still apply.



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