

HPV Primary Screening Funding

This guidance is effective from 12 September 2023

✓ What Screening Tests Are Funded?

Free routine cervical screening, irrespective of whether an HPV self-test or cervical sample is used, is available for the following groups for screening:

- All women and people with a cervix aged 30 years and over who are un-screened (i.e., they have never been screened for cervical cancer).
 - This includes women and people with a cervix aged 70 to 74 years who have never been screened.
- All women and people with a cervix aged 30 years and over who are under-screened (i.e., it has been five years or more since their last cytology, OR seven years or more since their last HPV test).

Please refer to page 2 for further guidance about the definition of under-screened, including for people that are immune deficient.

- Women and people with a cervix aged 70 to 74 years who have not had:
 - two consecutive normal cervical cytology results between 62 to 69 years, OR
 - a 'HPV not detected' result in the five years prior to age 70¹
- All wāhine Māori and whānau with a cervix aged 25 to 69 years.
- All Pacific women and people with a cervix aged 25 to 69 years.
- All women and people with a cervix aged 25 to 69 years who hold a Community Services Card.

Note: Screening Tests when patients aren't due for screening are not covered by this funding.

¹ Refer to the **Clinical Practice Guidelines** for further information about screening requirements for un/under-screened women and people with a cervix aged 70 – 74 years, including guidance for exiting testing for these participants. Cervical screening for asymptomatic women and people with a cervix aged 75 years and older is not recommended.

You can only claim once per screening test, and under only one category. For routine screening, please apply the following hierarchy:

1. Un / under-screened / follow-up tests (\$50)
2. Māori / Pacific / CSC holder (\$35)

For example, if a wāhine or person with a cervix is both under-screened and a non-Māori, non-Pacific CSC holder, you would claim their screen under the 'under-screened' category.

Note that the CSC holder category only applies to non-Māori, non-Pacific women and people with a cervix. This is because all wāhine Māori and whānau with a cervix, and all Pacific women and people with a cervix, are eligible for free screening.



What Follow-Up Tests Are Funded?

Follow-up testing is free for everyone, regardless of their eligibility for free routine screening. All eligible follow-up tests are listed below:

- All recommended HPV and / or cytology follow-up testing after 'HPV Other' detected (until returned to routine screening)
- People who have not yet been returned to routine interval screening (prior to the commencement of the HPV primary screening programme on 12 September 2023) and require follow-up testing (e.g., 12 month repeat screening after a previous low-grade cytology result).
- Repeat screening after an invalid or unsuitable for analysis HPV test result, or an unsatisfactory cytology sample.
- Test of Cure (including those eligible for a Test of Cure because of historical high-grade result) or recommended follow-up after colposcopy.
- Annual co-testing (for life) because of the history of a previous HPV-negative high-grade cervical or vaginal lesion, or a history of adenocarcinoma in-situ (AIS) where the HPV status prior to treatment is unknown.



Definition of Under-Screened for Funding Purposes

All eligible participants aged 30 and over who are under-screened will be eligible for free cervical screening from 12 September 2023.

From Sept 2023 to Sept 2026, most participants will be transitioning from a previous cytology screen to HPV primary screening. During this time, 'under-screened' is defined as 5 years (3 years if immune deficient) from their previous normal cytology screen.

	Recommended cytology screening interval	Under-screened
Non-immune deficient	3 years	5 years
Immune deficient	Annual	3 years

For subsequent screening rounds (after person has had their first round of HPV primary screening), under-screened is defined as 7 years from previous normal HPV screen (5 years if immune-deficient).

	Recommended HPV screening interval	Under-screened
Non-immune deficient	5 years	7 years
Immune deficient	3 years	5 years

Definition of Immune Deficient

(See Clinical Practice Guidelines for Cervical Screening in Aotearoa New Zealand June 2023, p 74)

- HIV positive
- Solid organ transplant
- Haemopoietic stem cell transplants
- On the following immune suppressant medications: Adilimumab, Azathioprine, Cyclosporin, Infliximab, Methotrexate, Fingolimod, Natalizumab, Dimethyl Fumarate, Teriflunamide. Glatiramer Acetate and Interferon Beta have limited information but participants on these medications qualify for increased surveillance. This list is not exhaustive and is subject to change.