

19 August 2024

Tēnā koutou

Laboratory Update: HPV Dry Swab Testing Message 2 - available at APS from 12 September 2024

From 12 September, APS will begin testing Dry Swab samples for HPV Primary Screening.

Attached is a copy of the new Self-Collect Swab instructions, plus an Information Guide for HPV and Cervical Cytology. Please familiarise yourself with the new consumables, collection and labelling instructions for the Dry Swab collect.

A key change is the supply of a complete kit for HPV swab collection – the kit includes the FLOQ Copan Swab, a secondary tube to be sent to the laboratory, and instructions for the patient to self-collect the dry swab sample.

Patients may opt to take the new HPV Swab Collection Kit home to collect the sample, however the HPV secondary tube will need to be returned to the practice for the sample to be sent to APS for testing. Once the sample is collected and placed in the secondary tube, the swab must be tested within 4 weeks.

Prior to sending a home collect to the laboratory, ensure the HPV secondary tube is labelled with the correct details for the patient providing the sample. If using a pre-printed patient label for the HPV secondary tube, place along the length of the tube, not covering the cap. Do not wrap the label horizontally around the tube. Avoid creating a 'flag' (where the label sticks out). An unlabelled or mislabelled HPV swab sample can not be tested for HPV and a recollect will be required.

The starter packs will start to arrive at practices within a few weeks. To avoid unnecessary waste, please continue sending wet swab samples until this stock is exhausted.

If you have any questions regarding the new Dry Swab collection, please get in touch with the team at APS on 302 0516 or aps.info@adhb.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi nui

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