



## Let's screen for HPV (for cervical cancer prevention)

### A pilot implementation study (summary)

HPV testing as the main cervical screening test will be introduced into the National Cervical Screening Programme (NCSP) in mid-2023. HPV testing has the potential to save many lives by improving the sensitivity of the screening program and by reducing barriers to cervical screening.

Assoc Prof Peter Sykes, Dr Carrie Innes, Dr Ben Hudson, Assoc Prof Lynn McBain, Dr John McMenamin, and Prof Bev Lawton are leading a pilot implementation of HPV screening in this region.

Implementation of HPV screening will be a major change for the NCSP and they are funding this study. We aim to determine real-world information on the impact of HPV screening incorporating the vaginal swab self-test in New Zealand primary care. Your participation in this pilot will enable your patients to have early access to the benefits of HPV screening and enable your practice to help ensure the new program is introduced in an optimal manner.

- We wish to enlist 15 practices across 3 regions to take part in this study and to enrol at least 3000 women.
- The participating practices will need to have a screening recall register and be able to nominate one GP and one nurse as the site investigators.
- Participating women will need to sign an informed consent.
- Participating women will have the choice of performing a (1) vaginal HPV self-test at home or at the practice or (2) speculum examination and cervical liquid-based cytology specimen which will be tested for high-risk HPV.
- Women who have a positive high-risk HPV test (approx. 1 in 10) will be either referred to colposcopy or require a cytology test. For those with a cervical sample, a cytology test will be performed automatically. Those women who had a vaginal swab may need to return to the practice for a cervical cytology sample to stratify their risk.
- Recruitment will commence in July 2022 and finish in January 2023.
- There is funding to support practice participation and data management.
- The cost of the lab tests will be covered by the study and the National Screening Unit.
- Patient costs will be determined by the practice but should not exceed the usual cost of a cervical cytology test.

#### For further information please contact:

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