

Provincial Laboratory Services



src.healthpei.ca/microbiology

Health PEI
One Island Health System

HPV screening as a test for Cervical Cancer Screening

Since May 23, 2023, Provincial Laboratory Services has replaced the conventional Pap smear with primary HPV (human papillomavirus) testing using PCR. This test helps detect the presence of HPV, which is the leading cause of cervical cancer.

Screening for cervical cancer is recommended for asymptomatic, sexually active individuals with a cervix between the age of 25 and 65. HPV testing is highly sensitive and allows for a screening interval of five years after negative results.

HPV self-tests mini-pilot

To test all processes and pathways, a mini-pilot with HPV self-tests will be conducted at the provincial cervical screening clinics, gender-affirming clinic, and three primary care providers, each from a different network, **starting February 15, 2024** and running for three months.

If you are the affiliated provider in CERNER of a pilot participant, you will be copied on the results of these HPV self-screening tests. You can easily recognize these results by looking at the provider's name, which will be the HPEI Cervical Cancer Screening Service, and the site field on the lab result, which will say "self-collection vaginal sample". **These results are for your information only. No action is needed by you. At this time, each individual performing an HPV self-test will be linked to a pilot provider for result sharing and further follow-up if indicated.**

Your role in Cervical Cancer Screening

It is important as primary care providers to engage eligible patients in cervical cancer screening activities. You can continue to do this by performing HPV screening with liquid based cytology at your practices or referring eligible individuals to the provincial cervical screening clinics. It is equally important that all positive HPV results receive proper follow-up, patients should be encouraged by health care providers to attend follow-up appointments. Thank you for your collaboration!

We are hopeful that HPV self-tests will become widely available throughout the province as an optional screening test within the next six months.

For any information or questions, please contact Dr. Ding at QEH laboratory services at xding@ihis.org or Anja Nied-Kutterer at colcerscreening@ihis.org.