

Memo to all primary care providers throughout Prince Edward Island

Regarding: MINI-PILOT for HPV SELF-SCREENING TESTS: sharing of information

❖ Short reminder of cervical cancer screening practices

The way to screen for cervical cancer went from the traditional PAP smear to an HPV screen with a brush and liquid based cytology (the primary HPV screen) in May 2023. This test is taken by a clinician who does a cervical exam with a speculum, also referred to as 'clinician-collected HPV sample'. We now have a different way for clients to do their screening test. This is with a dry swab (much like a Covid swab) that they can insert into their vagina and rotate around. This is what we call the HPV self-screening test. The results are as reliable as the cervical sample, the procedure is easy and not painful.

❖ Status of HPV self-screening tests and MINI-PILOT

The process of validating the COBAN Swab for HPV detection from a vaginal sample has been very promising. Every negative result is a true negative and patients can return to screening after 3-5 years.

If the HPV self-screening test is positive, we need to arrange for further examination for a cytology sample and/or a colposcopy examination, as per the recommended guidelines.

Currently we have a limited supply available of HPV self-screening swabs. We will test all processes and pathways in a mini-pilot. This mini-pilot will be conducted at the provincial cervical screening clinics (the PAP clinics), at the gender-affirming clinic and three primary care providers, each from a different network. **At this moment, we do not want to hand out the self-screening tests for at-home use.**

As your affiliated provider in CERNER, you will be copied on the results. You will be able to recognize an HPV self-screening test by looking at the provider (this will be Cervical Cancer Screening Service), as well as the **site field** on the lab result. **This result is for your information only.**

Microbiology HPV PCR Final Report

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HPV PCR Final Report – 2024/Jan/22 13:30

Site
HPV PCR, Self Collection Vaginal Sample

A green arrow points from the 'site field' text in the paragraph above to the 'Site' field in the report screenshot. The 'Site' field is circled in green.

At this time, the PROVIDERS AT THE PARTICIPATING CLINICS, together with the Cervical Cancer Screening Service, WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR the necessary NEXT STEPS or follow-up of the clients using the HPV self-screening test.

❖ Timelines

Our intended start date for mini-pilot is February 15th. We are hoping to expand the supply of self-screening tests to primary clinics in the month of May 2024. More information on this will follow. We will be reaching out for pathways to follow-up on your patients with abnormal results at that time.

If you are interested in collaborating or have any questions, please reach out to Anja Nied-Kutterer at aniedkutterer@ihis.org.