

HPV Primary Screening Funding

This guidance is effective from 12 September 2023

✓ What Screening Tests Are Funded?

Zero-fees 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 who are under-screened (please refer to page 3 for the definition of under-screened, including for people that are immune deficient). This also includes 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
 - an 'HPV not detected' result in the five years prior to age 70.
- 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.
- All women and people with a cervix under 25 years who are already part of the National Cervical Screening Programme (e.g., they commenced screening before the screening age was lifted from 20 years to 25 years), AND who are Māori, Pacific, or hold a community services card.

Note: Screening tests are only funded if the patient is due for screening, or if it is no more than 6 months before their next screen is due. This is irrespective of whether the patient has clinically relevant symptoms.

If a patient that is otherwise eligible for zero-fees screening presents with clinically relevant symptoms but is not due recall (and it is more than 6 months before they will be due for recall), this is not funded for a zero-fees screen. This is because it is a diagnostic test, not a screening test under the National Cervical Screening Programme.

Prices:

Screening Category	Price	PU Code
Un/under-screened (regardless of test type)	\$50	NSU004
Māori, Pacific, CSC holders (regardless of test type)	\$35	NSU002

Note that you can only claim once per screening test, and under only one category.

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?

Zero-fees follow-up testing is funded for everyone, regardless of their eligibility for zero-fees 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. This includes test handling errors.
- 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.
- Note that anyone who is under 25 years and on a follow-up testing pathway (as defined above), is also eligible for zero-fees follow-up testing.

Price:

Screening Category	Price	PU Code
Follow up testing (regardless of test type)	\$50	NSU003



Definition of Under-Screened for Funding Purposes

All eligible participants who are under-screened will be eligible for zero-fees 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 definition
Non-immune deficient	3 years	5 years or more
Immune deficient	Annual	3 years or more

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 definition
Non-immune deficient	5 years	7 years or more
Immune deficient	3 years	5 years or more

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.



Q+As

1. What about eligibility following a total hysterectomy?

Some women and people who have had a total hysterectomy also require cervical screening (please refer to the **NCSP Clinical Guidelines**¹ p.62 for further detail).

The same eligibility criteria for zero-fees screening applies to these women and people i.e., they are eligible if they require cervical screening, and meet one of the following criteria:

- Are un/under-screened,
- Need follow up testing as defined in this document,
- Are Māori, Pacific, or hold a community-services card.

2. If a woman or person with a cervix has clinically relevant symptoms, are they eligible for zero-fees screening?

Screening tests are for people who do not have any symptoms. Therefore, the presence of symptoms is not an eligibility criterion for zero-fees screening.

However, if a person with symptoms is due for cervical screening (or due within the next six months) and is entitled to zero-fees screening, the fee can be claimed.

A co-test (HPV and cytology on a cervical sample) is recommended for people with symptoms.

The fee that can be claimed is related to the person's eligibility for zero-fees screening i.e., \$35 if they are eligible because they are Māori, Pacific, or hold a community services card; \$50 if they are eligible because they are un/under-screened or require follow up testing.

3. Can a person request a co-test without a clinical indication?

Laboratories are not processing co-tests unless an appropriate clinical reason is written on the lab form, or a Test of Cure is indicated. If a co-test is not clinically indicated the laboratory will initially process the HPV test, and only perform cytology if HPV is detected.

Please note that if symptomatic, writing "clinically indicated" is not sufficient– the specific reason must be provided.

¹ https://www.tewhātuora.govt.nz/assets/Our-health-system/Screening/HPV-Primary-Screening/clinical_practice_guidelines_final_version_1.1.pdf

4. Are women and people with a cervix under 25 years eligible for screening?

People under 25 years **should not** be offered cervical screening.

The exception is those aged 20–24 who have previously started cervical screening (e.g., they commenced screening before the screening age was lifted to 25 years). In this case, they should be recalled in accordance with clinical guidelines and will be eligible for zero-fees screening if:

- They meet the eligibility criteria for zero-fees screening (i.e., require follow up testing or are Māori, Pacific, or hold a community services card), and
- Are due for screening, or it is no more than 6 months before they are due for recall.

5. Does HPV vaccination status impact when a woman or person with a cervix is recommended to be screened?

HPV vaccination status **does not impact** on screening recommendations.

6. Are colposcopy referrals and/or patient consultations to discuss results included in the 'follow up' category?

The current fee schedule is intended to remove the co-payment for the patient. Additional funding for informing patients of their results and writing referrals is not covered by this funding. Further work to develop the longer-term funding model as part of 'Step 2' is including engagement via a GPNZ-convened PHO working group. This group is working through pricing and funding requirements in more detail.