

General Information

The National Screening Programme (NCSP) introduced Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Primary Screening in New Zealand in 2023. The new cervical screening test is expected to increase screening rates and significantly reduce cervical cancer deaths in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Please use the Halcyon Web Portal Form: HPV Primary Screening to claim funding for qualifying individuals.

Programme Objectives

Increase HPV and Cervical Screening by enabling zero-fee cervical screening for priority populations.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for **free** cervical screening (regardless of whether an HPV self-test/clinician assisted test or cervical sample is taken), persons must meet one of the following criteria as outlined below:

Funding Category	Eligibility criteria
HPV Primary Screening - Unscreened and Under-screened	Unscreened - Women and people with a cervix aged 30 to 74 years who have never been screened for cervical cancer. Under-screened - Women and people with a cervix aged 30 to 69 years (or aged under 30 years if they are already part of the National Cervical Screening Programme); and it has been: — Five years or more (three years or more if immune deficient) from their previous normal cytology screen. — Seven years or more (five years or more if immune deficient) since their last normal HPV test. Women and people with a cervix aged 70 to 74 years who have not had: — two consecutive normal cervical cytology results between age 62 to 69 years, OR — a 'HPV not detected' result between age 65 to 69 years.
HPV Primary Screening - Priority Groups (Māori, Pacific, or holders of a Community Services Card (CSC) regardless of ethnicity)	Women and people with a cervix aged 25 to 69 years (or aged under 25 years and already part of the National Cervical Screening Programme) who are due for cervical screening and are: • Māori, • Pacific, or • Holders of a Community Services Card (CSC) regardless of ethnicity

HPV / Cervical Screening

Practice Information

Last updated: July 2026

HPV Primary Screening - Follow-up testing	Follow-up testing is fully funded for everyone who is eligible for publicly funded health services in New Zealand, regardless of their eligibility for fully funded routine screening. However, for a test to be classified as a follow-up test, it needs to meet the criteria listed below: • All recommended HPV and 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 months 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 results) 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.
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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. Refer to the clinical guidelines for determining when a person is due.

Exclusion Criteria

People who do not meet the eligibility criteria as set out in the above table

Programme Process

Eligible screening participants must not be charged any co-payment in relation to their cervical screening.

Payment

Eligible category	Funded amount (excl GST)
Unscreened or Under-screened - Māori and Pacific Peoples	\$60
Unscreened or Under-screened	\$50

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- Non-Māori / Non-Pacific	
Priority Group	\$50
- Māori or Pacific	
Priority Group	\$50
- CSC holder	
Follow-up testing	\$72

Frequently Asked Questions

Where should I go to find cervical screening guidelines, standards and eligibility guidelines?

[Go to Cervical Screening for Health Professionals](#)

What is the current Cervical Screening training pathway?

[Go to Cervical Screening pathways](#) for Health Professionals to find out information on how to become a cervical sample taker, HPV screen taker, responsible clinician, or an HPV screening kaimahi.

Questions or Feedback?

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