



## Cancer Screening Information for Healthcare Providers

### Cervical Screening for asymptomatic women aged 25-74, every five years after their first Cervical Screening Test

- The cervical screening program was **not paused** during COVID-19 and any clients who are due or overdue for screening should be encouraged to book in as soon as possible.
- The Cervical Screening Test (CST) replaced the Pap test in December 2017. The CST is more accurate than the Pap test and up to 30 per cent fewer women are expected to be diagnosed with cervical cancer in Australia each year.
- Women are due for their first CST two years after their last Pap test, or when they turn 25. Once your patients have had their first CST, they can then move to five-yearly screening, provided the results are 'low risk' (HPV not detected).
- The date of your patient's last screen can be obtained by phoning the **National Cancer Screening Register (NCSR) on 1800 627 701**.
- You can also request screening histories from the NCSR for up to 20 patients at a time via the ['Healthcare Provider Cervical Screening History Request Fax Template Form'](#).

### Self-collection of a vaginal sample

- Self-collection of vaginal samples for human papillomavirus (HPV) testing is now available under the renewed National Cervical Screening Program.
- There is strong [evidence](#) that HPV tests on self-collected vaginal samples have **equivalent sensitivity** to clinician collected samples.

### Eligibility for self-collection

Self-collection of a vaginal sample (HPV) is an option for women who have declined to have a clinician-collected sample and are either:

- 30 years or over and never had cervical screening; or
- 30 years or over, and overdue for screening by two or more years (i.e. greater than four years since their previous Pap test).

### Getting your clinic ready to offer self-collection

- Clinics have the choice between two pathology providers that are currently accredited to process self-collected samples: **Victorian Cytology Service** (phone liaison Physician on 1800 611 635) and **ClinPath Pathology** (phone client services on 8366 2000).
- Call your chosen provider ahead of offering self-collection to obtain instructions on how to forward samples, and to order a stock of the swabs (red-topped flock swab Copan FLOQswab 552C) and patient education materials.

## Bowel Screening (for men and women aged 50-74, every two years)

- The National Bowel Screening Program (NBCSP) invites eligible people starting from 50 and continuing to age 74 to screen for bowel cancer. It was **not paused** during COVID-19.
- Bowel screening is appropriate for people who do not have obvious symptoms of the disease.
- If your patient has misplaced or forgotten to complete a test kit and it has expired they can order a new one by calling the **National Cancer Screening Register on 1800 627 701**.
- Kits are forwarded to the address listed under Medicare.
- General Practices can support bowel screening by:
  - **Displaying** brochures, flyers and posters - [Order Program Resources](#)
  - **Talking** to patients aged 50-74 years about bowel cancer screening - [Download Clinical Resources](#) or [check when an individual will get a kit](#)
  - **Demonstrating** how to use a kit. Demonstration kits can be ordered by emailing [NBCSP@health.gov.au](mailto:NBCSP@health.gov.au)
  - **Sending** a letter to 49 year old patients to encourage participation - [Download a template letter](#)
  - **Knowing** the Program – this series of [short videos](#) provides a simplified approach to the NBCSP covering the following topics: What is screening, Classification of risk, Referral to colonoscopy and Case studies. For practice nurses this [Webinar](#) is a one-hour online seminar on bowel cancer, screening and how nurses working in general practice can approach bowel screening with patients
  - Download the [Promoting the NBCSP in General Practice](#) fact sheet for tips on how to support the Program.

## Breast Screening (for women aged over 40, especially 50-74, every two years)

- BreastScreen SA **reopened** in late April 2020 following its closure in March for COVID-19.
- Asymptomatic women who are due for screening can **call 13 20 50** to make a booking.
- The Mobile Screening Units that visit rural and remote locations may have an altered schedule due to the longer appointment times required for physical distancing.
- Temporary pop-up clinics are being held in Port Lincoln and Victor Harbor until the end of the year to ensure women in these areas are able to access screening when they are due.
- Women with symptoms of breast cancer must see their GP before having a screening mammogram to ensure they do not require further investigation. *Screening mammography is not an appropriate test for women with breast symptoms.*



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### For more information

Prevention and Population Health

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