

Cancer Screening Tip of the Month – January 2025

Toronto Central Regional Cancer Program, Cancer Screening eBulletin

Important Changes to the Ontario Cervical Screening Program (OCSP): HPV Testing - Starting March 3, 2025

On **March 3, 2025**, the human papillomavirus (HPV) test will replace cytology (papanicolaou smears) as the primary test for cervical screening in the OCSP. The **HPV screening test** detects oncogenic types of HPV. Positive HPV screening tests will automatically be sent for further testing including:

- **Reflex cytology** to check for the presence or absence of cervical cell changes and whether the changes are high-grade or low-grade.
 - **Partial genotyping** to stratify results as: HPV type 16; HPV types 18/45; or other high-risk oncogenic types of HPV.
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Changes to the OCSP Cervical Screening and Colposcopy Recommendations:

- The age of cervical screening initiation will be 25.
 - There will be new screening intervals, indications for referral to colposcopy and cessation criteria.
 - HPV testing will be used in colposcopy to determine eligibility for discharge and the recommended interval for screening post-discharge from colposcopy.
 - Further details and the evidence to support these changes are available in the [Frequently Asked Questions](#).
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Important Process Changes:

- The new OCSP [cervical screening requisition](#) must be used to order program-related HPV and cytology tests for eligible participants (**do not** fax requisitions until HPV testing launches).
 - Program-related specimens must be collected using the ThinPrep® system. Any specimens collected using SurePath™ will be rejected. Please see the [How to Collect a Cervical Sample](#) tool for other tips on avoiding rejections.
 - All OCSP related specimens will be analyzed by LifeLabs or Dynacare. You will receive more information on working with these laboratory partners.
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Resources and Upcoming Provincial Webinars:

All resources to support providers with the upcoming change are available on the [HPV Testing in Ontario: Implementation Resource Hub](#).

Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario) will offer two webinars for primary care providers prior to launch.

Webinars for providers offering cervical screening:

- February 4th, 7:30 am – 8:30 am: **Register [here](#)**
- February 13th, 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm: **Register [here](#)**

Click [here](#) to view the previous Cancer Screening Tip of the Month eBulletins.

If you have any questions or if you would like to receive the Cancer Screening Tip of the Month please email the Toronto Central Regional Cancer Program, Cancer Screening team: infoTCRCP@sunnybrook.ca