



# The Cervical Screening Test for Pregnant Women

## Practice Points for Health Professionals

*“A woman can be safely screened at any time during pregnancy, provided that the correct sampling equipment is used.”*

[https://wiki.cancer.org.au/australia/Clinical\\_question:Screening\\_in\\_pregnancy](https://wiki.cancer.org.au/australia/Clinical_question:Screening_in_pregnancy)

- Routine antenatal and postpartum care should include a review of the patient’s cervical screening history
- Offer a Cervical Screening Test at any stage of a patient’s antenatal care if they are 25 years old or over, and if they are due or overdue
- Cervical screening during pregnancy gives a good test sample
- Reassure the patient that cervical screening is safe during pregnancy
- The Cyto-broom is recommended to collect a cervical screening specimen in pregnant patients. The endocervical brush should not be used because of the associated bleeding which may distress women (REC 14.12: Cervical screening in pregnancy)



Cyto-broom

- Self-collection may be considered during pregnancy in eligible women following counselling by a health care professional regarding the risk of bleeding. (see REC 14.13 Self collection in pregnancy)



Self-collected (HPV) swab

- Pregnancy is a good time to offer a Cervical Screening Test. It can be hard for women to make time for their own health after their baby is born
- Some patients may wish to defer their Cervical Screening Test until after they give birth, however this may result in a further twelve month delay in completing the test. Advise them the screening test will be recommended again at their postnatal visit

## Cervical Screening in the postpartum period

- Testing for oncogenic HPV is accurate at any time.
- There can be difficulties in interpreting reflex Liquid Based Cytology (LBC) results and/or an increase in unsatisfactory reflex LBC results in the early period after birth. For this reason it is preferable to offer screening at 3 months or later post-partum. Clinicians will need to make a judgement about when to offer screening, as ‘opportunistic screening’ at 6 weeks postpartum is still better than no screening at all.

**For consumer information about cervical screening during pregnancy go to:**

<https://www.cancer.org.au/cervicalscreening/over-25/pregnant>



### Requiring an interpreter?

A free telephone 24 hour interpreting service is available for medical practitioners in private practice.

For more information or to register for the **Doctor’s Priority Line** contact **TIS National on 1300 575 847**