



# Important Update Cervical Screening Renewal

April 2017 update

New date for  
implementation –  
1 December 2017

Changes planned for 1 May 2017 have been delayed by the Government.  
It is important that women now due for cervical screening continue to have a Pap test.

To help reduce a delay in results, the Government will provide the following rebates

**From now until 1 May**

Medicare rebate for Pap smear (slide). "Business as usual".

**1 May - 30 Nov: NEW!**

Medicare rebate for EITHER Pap smear (slide) OR ThinPrep® (Liquid Based Cytology LBC).

**Until 1 Dec**

Medicare rebate for HPV testing is only available for follow-up of high grade cervical lesions or previously positive HPV tests.

**From 1 Dec -**

**New CST program effective**

Medicare rebate for primary HPV screening (+/-ThinPrep® (LBC) in some situations).

Medicare rebate for pap smear (slides) will cease.

## Screening options

### 1. Pap smear

Until the new cervical screening program commences on 1 December, Melbourne Pathology will continue to offer high quality, Medicare rebatable Pap smear (slide) testing.

### 2. ThinPrep® (LBC)

Some referring doctors recommend that a liquid based cytology (LBC) sample is taken along with the Pap smear test.

From 1 May to 30 November, both options will be rebatable, but not when ordered together, so you may choose to send EITHER a Pap smear slide OR a ThinPrep® vial for cytology analysis. Only one per patient will be funded – not both.

The preferred screening option from 1 May is to send LBC.

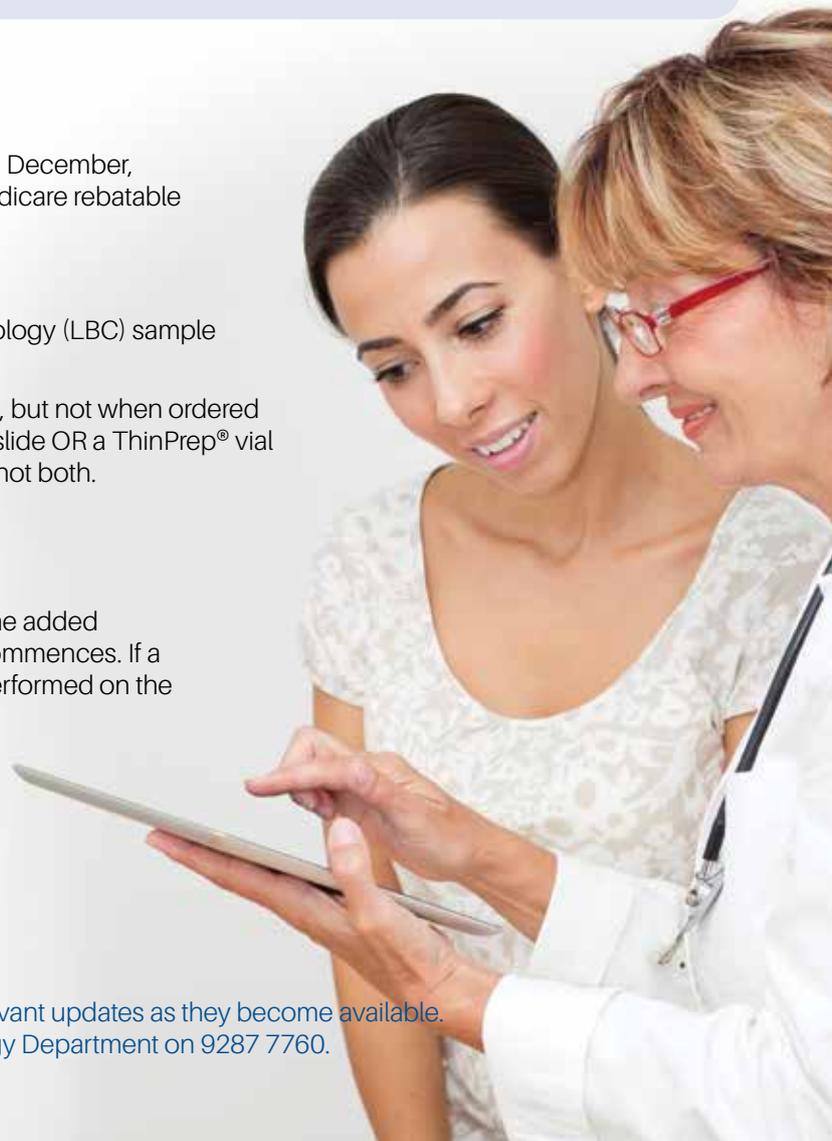
### 3. HPV testing

Co-testing (LBC+HPV) can be offered to patients wanting the added reassurance of their HPV status, before the new program commences. If a ThinPrep® cytology sample is taken, the HPV test can be performed on the same vial and will generate a private fee.

*Note: HPV testing continues to only be rebatable for follow-up and 'test of cure' until the new program commences.*

The Management Guidelines are now available at the following link, but will not apply until 1 December 2017.  
[http://wiki.cancer.org.au/australia/Guidelines:Cervical\\_cancer/Screening](http://wiki.cancer.org.au/australia/Guidelines:Cervical_cancer/Screening)

Melbourne Pathology will continue to provide you with relevant updates as they become available. For any queries related to the Renewal, contact our Cytology Department on 9287 7760.





# Direct to vial ThinPrep<sup>®</sup> for cervical screening tests

## Collection Guide

### Collection Using a Cervical Sampler

For the majority of pre-menopausal women, it is advisable to use the cervical sampler (broom-like device) alone.

The use of lubricant can interfere with pathology tests. If lubrication of the speculum is required, please use warm water. If additional lubrication is required, use only a small amount of water-soluble lubricant, avoiding the tip of the speculum.

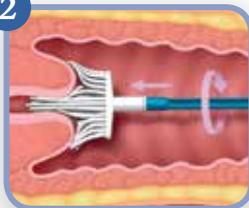


1



**Label** the ThinPrep<sup>®</sup> vial with the patient's given name, surname and date of birth.  
**Record** patient details and clinical history on the pathology request form.

2



**Visualise** the cervix and **Obtain** an adequate sample from the cervix by rotating the cervical sampler 3-5 times in the cervical os.

3



**Vigorously Rinse** the sampler immediately in the vial. The sampler should hit the base of the vial 5-10 times, splaying the bristles open.

**DO NOT LEAVE THE HEAD OF THE SAMPLER IN THE VIAL.**

4



**Tighten** the cap of the vial. Place the vial and the request form in a specimen bag for transportation to the laboratory.