

National Cervical Screening Program renewal in Australia: survey of clinician views and attitudes

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Cervical Screening Renewal - Clinician Attitudes and Practices following Implementation in NSW

Introduction

Family Planning NSW is conducting a survey to explore NSW clinician knowledge, attitudes and practices towards the renewed cervical screening program and associated guidelines.

We would like to invite you to complete an online survey. You are invited as a clinician delivering cervical screening with a practice location in NSW.

The aim of this survey is to better understand clinician attitudes and practices following the recent renewal of the National Cervical Screening Program, and to inform future educational and supporting resources for clinicians.

The survey should take approximately 10 minutes or less to complete and no personal information will be collected. Your participation is completely voluntary, and you may discontinue the survey at any time.

By participating in this survey, you will be contributing to improved understanding of current attitudes to, familiarity with, and practices of clinicians regarding the cervical screening renewal and the associated updated guidelines. It is anticipated that the survey will identify common patterns in practice and knowledge which will inform targeted education campaigns and resources and support improved uptake of the guidelines, and more effectively support clinicians. Findings could inform future education activities delivered by FPNSW, and also external stakeholders such as the RACGP.

Following completion of this project it is anticipated that findings will be communicated by journal articles, conferences and FPNSW materials.

This research has received ethics approval from Family Planning NSW Human Research Ethics Committee.

If your clinical practice is in NSW and you would like to proceed to the survey, please click "Next" to proceed the survey.

If you have any questions regarding this study, they can be directed to Chief Investigator Dr Sally Sweeney at sallys@fpnsw.org.au. If you have a complaint or any ethical concerns about the study please contact the Family Planning NSW Ethics Executive Officer at ethics@fpnsw.org.au or call 02 8752 4352.

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Section 1: Demographics

1. What state/territory do you practice in?

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> NSW | <input type="radio"/> SA |
| <input type="radio"/> QLD | <input type="radio"/> TAS |
| <input type="radio"/> ACT | <input type="radio"/> NT |
| <input type="radio"/> WA | |

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Section 1: Demographics

2. Your gender

- Male
- Female

3. Your age

- <30
- 31-35
- 36-45
- 45-55
- 55-65
- Over 65

4. Did you obtain your primary medical degree in Australia?

- Yes
- No

5. What type of clinician are you?

- Obstetrician& Gynaecologist (FRANZCOG)
- RANZCOG trainee
- GP (with DRANZCOG or DRANZCOG Adv)
- GP (with FRACGP or FACRRM)
- GP Registrar (recognised AGPT program)
- GP registrar (other pathway)
- Nurse
- Midwife
- Nurse practitioner
- non-VR medical doctor
- Other (please specify)

6. Location of practice

- Capital City
- Metropolitan City (population >200,000)
- Regional Centre
- Rural Town
- Remote area
- Other (please specify)

7. Type of practice:

- Solo practitioner
- Small group practice <5 FTE practitioners
- large group practice >5FTE practitioners
- Public Health Service
- Other (please specify)

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Section 2: Attitudes & Behaviours

8. How frequently do you perform Cervical Screening?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Less than monthly
- I do not currently perform cervical screening

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Section 2: Attitudes & Behaviours

9. How long have you been performing cervical cancer screening?

- Less than 12 months
- 1- 5 years
- 5-10 years
- 10-20 years
- more than 20 years

10. Which Educational activities have you undertaken specific to the renewal of the cervical screening program? (Please select all that apply)

- National Prescriber Service activity
- Family Planning NSW activity
- Primary Health Network activity
- Cancer Council online education modules found on the guideline website
- RACGP activity
- None
- Other (please specify)

11. I feel confident since 1st December 2017 in requesting the correct cervical screening test for the correct patient at the right time.

1 Not at all confident	2	3	4	5	6	7 Very confident
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Section 2: Attitudes & Behaviours

12. If score 4 or less, please specify why:

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Section 2: Attitudes & Behaviours

13. I feel confident in understanding and interpreting cervical screening test reports and determining the correct follow up .

1 Not at all confident	2	3	4	5	6	7 Very confident
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Section 2: Attitudes & Behaviours

14. If score 4 or less, please specify why:

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Section 2: Attitudes & Behaviours

15. I know where to access the renewed guidelines “National Cervical Screening Program: Guidelines for the management of screen-detected abnormalities, screening in specific populations and investigation of abnormal vaginal bleeding”

- Yes
- No

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Section 2: Attitudes & Behaviours

16. I HAVE ACCESSED the updated cervical screening guidelines “National Cervical Screening Program: Guidelines for the management of screen-detected abnormalities, screening in specific populations and investigation of abnormal vaginal bleeding” since December 1st 2017

- Never
- Rarely
- At least monthly
- Weekly
- More than weekly
- Other (please specify)

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Section 2: Attitudes & Behaviours

17. I support the change in the National Cervical Screening program to commencing screening for HPV every 5 years from age 25.

- Yes
- No

If no, please give some reasons why:

18. Commencing cervical screening from age 25 risks missing substantial numbers of cervical cancer.

1 Strongly disagree

2

3

4

5

6

7 Strongly agree

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Section 3: Knowledge

19. Young women under 25 have very high rates of HPV infection, but for the most part it is transient and regresses with time.

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

20. Testing may be indicated in a woman aged under 25 in the following situations: (Please select all that apply)

- Immune-deficient for more than 5 years and sexually active
- If a woman has a strong family history (first degree relative) of cervical cancer
- If a woman has not received HPV vaccination
- If a woman has post coital bleeding and/or unexplained intermenstrual bleeding
- If a woman has had an abnormality under the previous screening program and next follow up test is due
- If a woman commenced screening under the previous program with normal previous results and it has now been 2 years since her last screening test
- If a woman experienced first sexual activity at a young age (<14 years) and had not received the HPV vaccine before sexual debut

21. I am aware of guidance within the new guidelines on screening requirements following hysterectomy.

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

22. A woman presenting with abnormal vaginal bleeding (unexplained intermenstrual bleeding, persistent postcoital bleeding or postmenopausal bleeding) requires: (select all that apply)

- advice to return for examination and "Cervical Screening Test" at a time when she is not bleeding
- Investigation including a "Co-Test" which should not be delayed due to the presence of blood
- Referral for specialist gynaecological assessment regardless of test results
- Referral for specialist gynaecological assessment only if there are abnormal test results

23. The following questions relate to specific populations of women:

	Yes	No	Unsure
Immune-deficient women require 3 yearly screening	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Unvaccinated women have the same screening requirements as vaccinated women	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Women still needing to complete Test of Cure after previous abnormalities on the old program should continue with Test of Cure under the new program	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lesbian women who have never had heterosexual intercourse have the same screening requirements as heterosexual women	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cervical screening tests should be offered during pregnancy if due and/or indicated	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
DES (diethylstilboestrol) exposed women require annual screening and specialist review	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

24. HPV testing on self-collected vaginal samples under supervision of a health care professional who also offers cervical screening should be offered to:

- Any woman who requests it
- Women who have never participated in the National Cervical Screening Program and are aged 30 or over, and decline a clinician collected sample
- Women who are overdue for cervical screening by 2 years or longer and are aged 30 or over, and decline a clinician collected sample
- None of above

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If completing this survey has raised questions or any uncertainty about any aspects of the cervical screening program or clinical scenarios, please view the guidelines at https://wiki.cancer.org.au/australia/Guidelines:Cervical_cancer/Screening.

Thank you for your time!