

**Te Whatu Ora**  
Health New Zealand

# Professional Partnership for HPV Screen takers and Responsible Clinicians

November 2023

# We can eliminate cervical cancer



[230519-ccei-brochure.pdf \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/campaigns/cervical-cancer-elimination-day-of-action/2023)

- 90% of girls fully vaccinated with the HPV vaccine by the age of 15;



- 70% of women screened using a high-performance test by the age of 35, and again by the age of 45;



- 90% of women with pre-cancer treated and 90% of women with invasive cancer managed.



Meeting and maintaining the 90-70-90 targets would yield significant returns in the coming century:

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November is the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual WHO cervical cancer elimination day  
<https://www.who.int/campaigns/cervical-cancer-elimination-day-of-action/2023>

# Cervical Screening

- 1 | More options
- 2 | More acceptable test – wider access to screening
- 3 | High performance screening test (HPV) – sensitivity
- 4 | High performance follow up (cytology) – specificity
- 5 | Access to diagnosis and treatment

**CERVICAL SCREENING**  
Your test, your choice!

TimeToCervicalScreen.nz

Safe.  
Accurate.  
Self-test option.

Time to screen  
National Cervical Screening Programme

# HPV Screen Takers

From **16 November 2023**, nurses (enrolled and registered) and nurse practitioners with a current New Zealand APC who are not cervical sample takers will be able to complete training and enter a professional partnership with a responsible clinician to offer HPV screening to those who meet the criteria.



Increase the workforce  
who are able to offer HPV  
screening



Widening access for  
participants



Enables more time for cervical  
sample takers to manage  
results and follow up

# This webinar will cover the following;



Scope of practice for the HPV screen taker



Required skills, knowledge and training



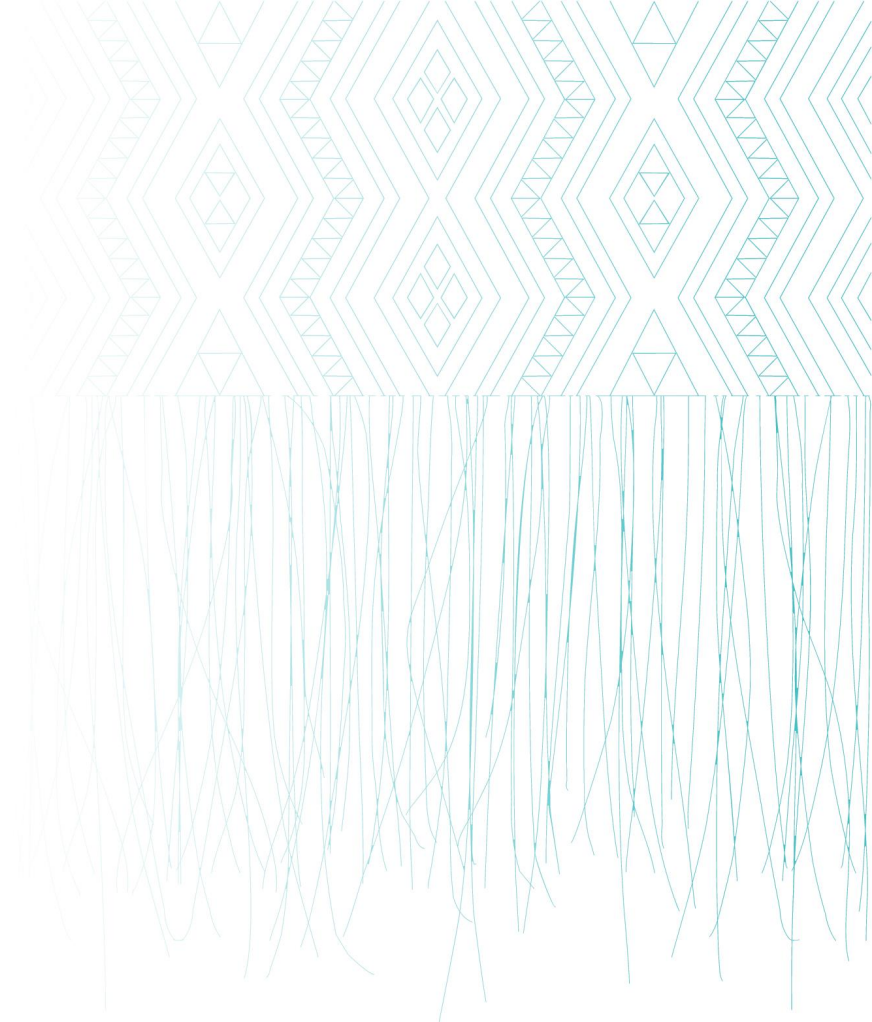
Working in professional partnership



Responsibilities of the 'responsible clinician' and employer



Resources and support



# Training Requirements



Completion of all 4  
Cervical Screening  
with Human  
Papillomavirus  
testing training  
modules



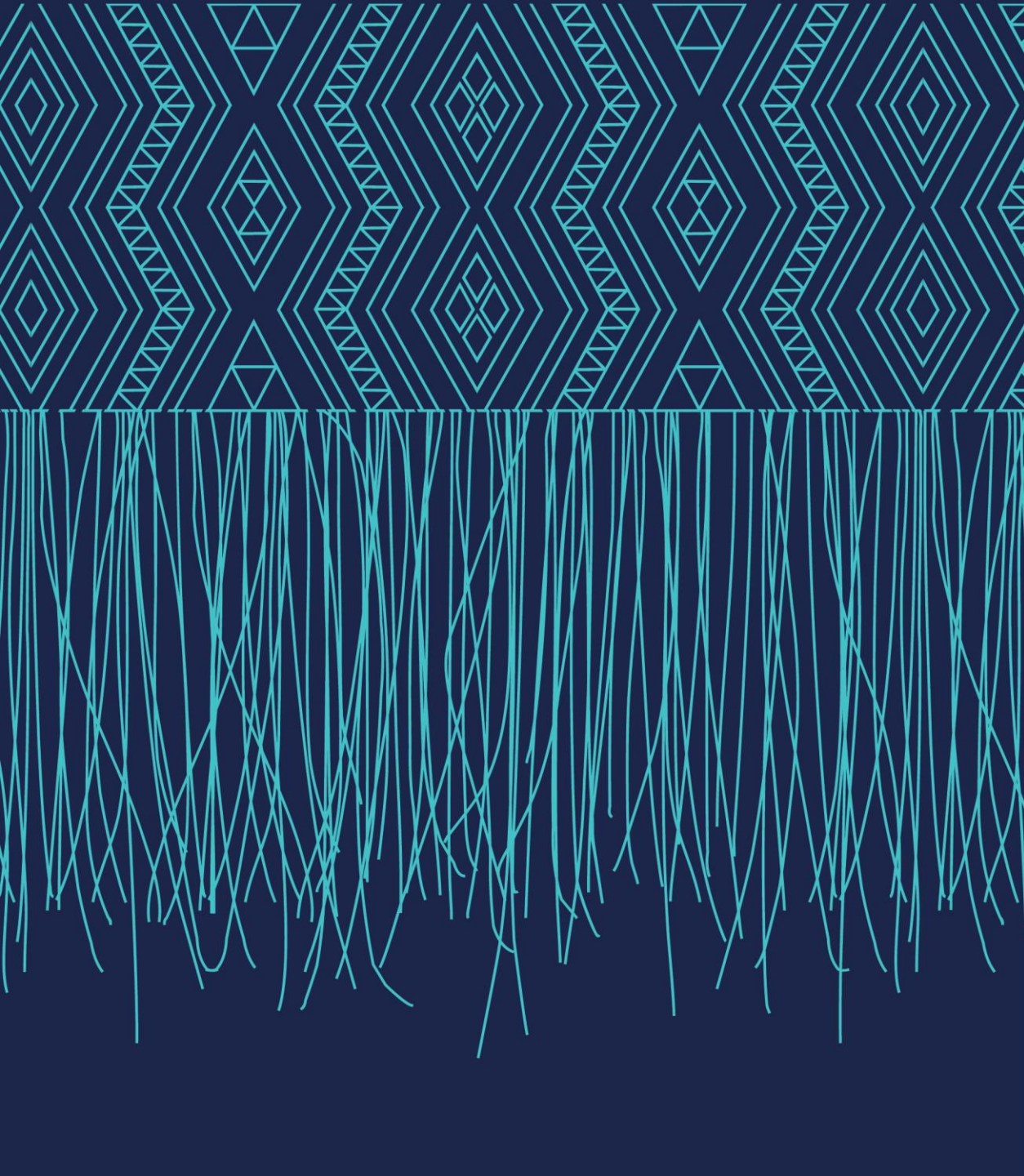
Watch the Roles and  
Responsibilities for  
HPV Screen takers  
and Responsible  
Clinicians Webinar



Professional  
Partnership  
assessment and  
agreement with  
partnered  
responsible clinician



Understands Clinical  
Practice Guidelines  
and NCSP Section 3  
Policies and  
Standards



National Screening Unit

**Te Whatu Ora**  
Health New Zealand

## **NCSPP Policies and Standards**

### **Section 3: Cervical Screening Services**

**V1.2 November 23**  
National Cervical Screening Programme, 2023



[Link to Section 3: Cervical Screening Services](#)

# Responsible Clinician



## RESPONSIBILITY

The responsible clinician holds clinical responsibility for the HPV test ordered under their HPI number. They are responsible for ensuring that required standards are met and that the clinical pathway is followed...



## EXPERIENCE

The responsible clinician must have at least one year's experience as a cervical sample taker, have a thorough understanding of the clinical pathways and the NCSP policies and standards.



## AVAILABLE

They need to be available to support participants and HPV Screen takers



## OPTIONAL

Working in a professional partnership is not a service decision – it is up to the Responsible Clinician and Nurse/Nurse Practitioner to decide to work in partnership when they are ready



# Roles and responsibilities: **Responsible clinicians**

## Definition

### **Cervical Sample taker**

A registered health practitioner, such as a medical practitioner, an accredited nurse practitioner, registered nurse, enrolled nurse\*, or registered midwife with a current New Zealand practicing certificate.

Must have completed cervical screening training either through:

- training as part of a medical degree or midwifery training programme; or
- an NZQA accredited course to conduct cervical screening.

## Role Requirements

### **Responsible Clinician**

- Completed all four e-learning NCSP HPV Primary Screening modules
- Minimum 12 months experience as an accredited cervical sample taker
- Understands the Clinical Practice Guidelines for Cervical Screening in Aotearoa New Zealand, 2023.
- Understands the NCSP Policies and Standards, Section 3: Cervical Screening Services, 2023
- Confident and comfortable to accept the role

# Responsible clinicians can

- ✓ Provide information about the NCSP and options for cervical screening
- ✓ Obtain informed consent
- ✓ Offer self-testing to participants
- ✓ Obtain a vaginal swab to test for HPV
- ✓ Obtain an LBC sample from the cervix
- ✓ Take responsibility for cervical screening results
- ✓ Provide results to participants
- ✓ Refer to Screening Support Services
- ✓ Refer to Colposcopy

# HPV Screen Taker



## KNOWLEDGE

Completed learning pathway



## EXPERIENCE

Gained experience in having cervical screening conversations



## COMPETENCE

Demonstrated competence through a professional partnership assessment



## OPTIONAL

Working in a professional partnership is not a service decision – it is up to the Responsible Clinician and Nurse/Nurse Practitioner to decide to work in partnership when they are ready

# Roles and responsibilities: HPV Screen Taker

## Definition

A registered health practitioner such as a nurse practitioner registered nurse, enrolled nurse, who has:

- ✓ Completed the NCSP Cervical Screening Using Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Testing learning modules
- ✓ Is working in a formally documented professional partnership with a 'responsible clinician'.

## Role Requirements

- Must always work in professional partnership with a responsible clinician.
- Must complete all the training requirements
- Understand legislative responsibilities
- Handover to the responsible clinician where indicated during assessment.
- Laboratory requests for HPV samples must be requested with the HPI number of the responsible clinician.

# HPV Screen Takers – scope of role

## CAN



Provide information about the NCSP and options for cervical screening



Obtain informed consent



Generate a laboratory request under the HPI of the responsible clinician



Offer self-testing to participants and arrange return of sample



Obtain a vaginal swab to test for HPV if within knowledge scope



Provide results to participants in partnership with the responsible clinician



## CANNOT



Request a cervical screening test under own HPI number

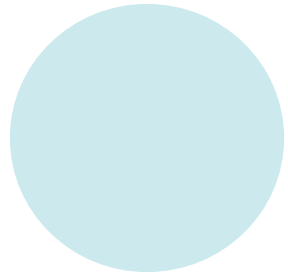


Take LBC sample from the cervix

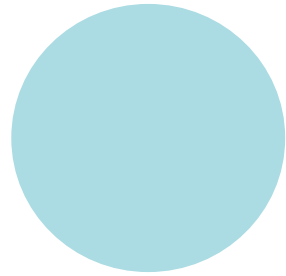


Take responsibility for the management of results

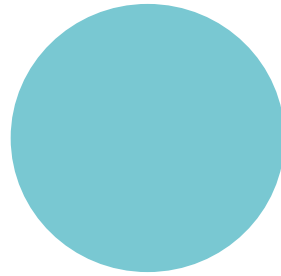
# Working in professional partnership



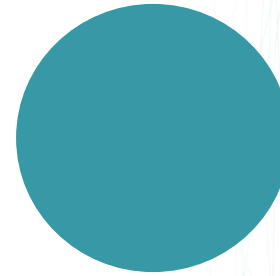
Based on trust



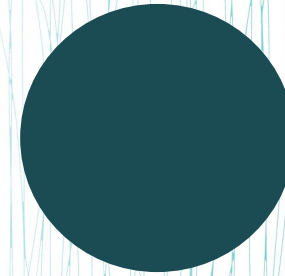
Working in professional partnership is a choice for both parties



Important to work together, share knowledge and experience until both parties are comfortable to enter a written agreement

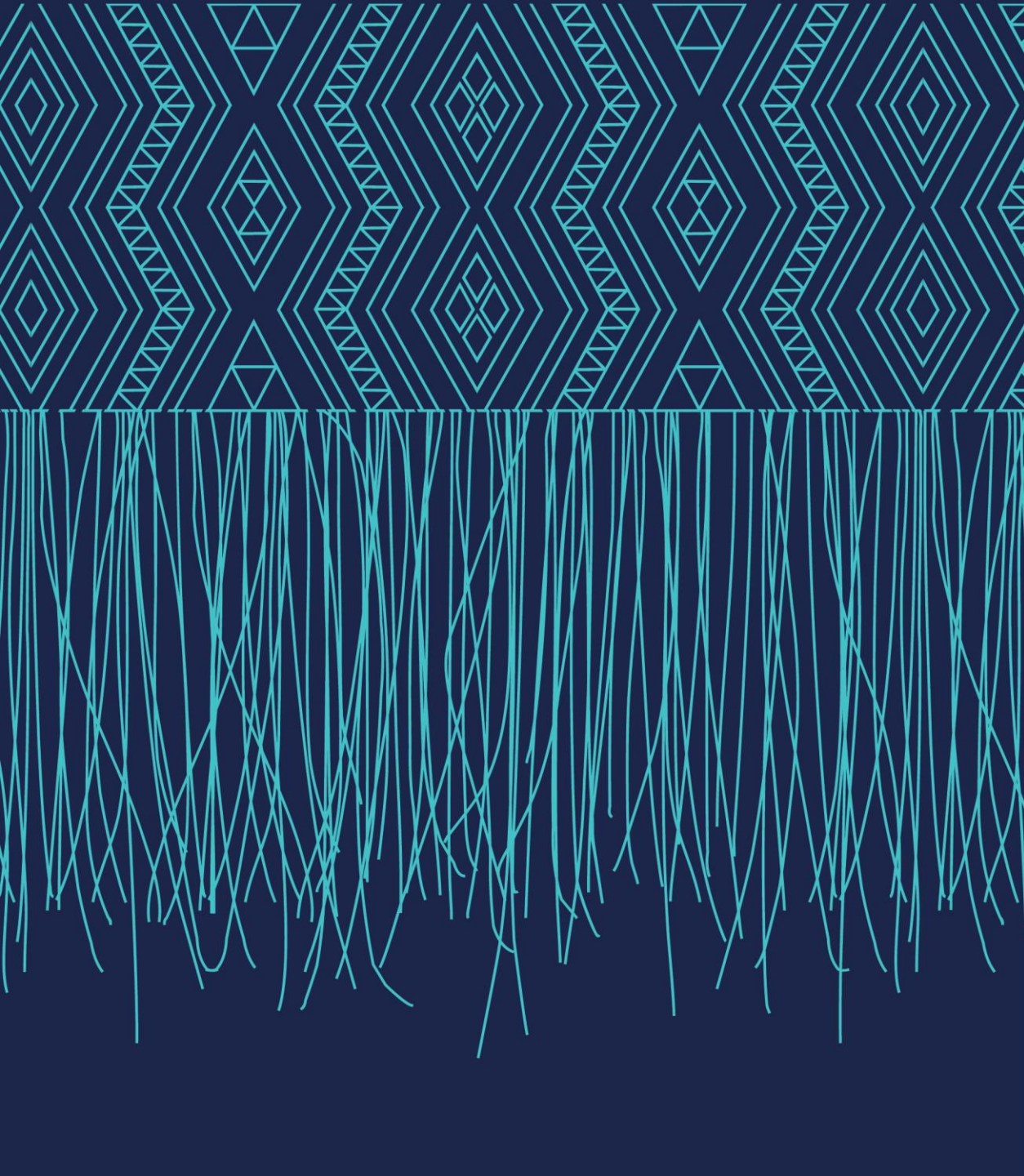


When ready complete a professional partnership assessment and agreement



Things to consider:

- Number of people you have a professional partnership with
- How you provide support for participants
- Ongoing support for HPV Screen takers
- What happens if the RC is on leave?



**Te Whatu Ora**  
Health New Zealand

## Resource book for HPV Screen takers

*Me aro koe ki te hā o Hine-ahu-one*

*Pay heed to the dignity of women*

*He aha te mea nui o te ao.*

*He tāngata, he tāngata, he tāngata*

*What is the most important thing in the world?*

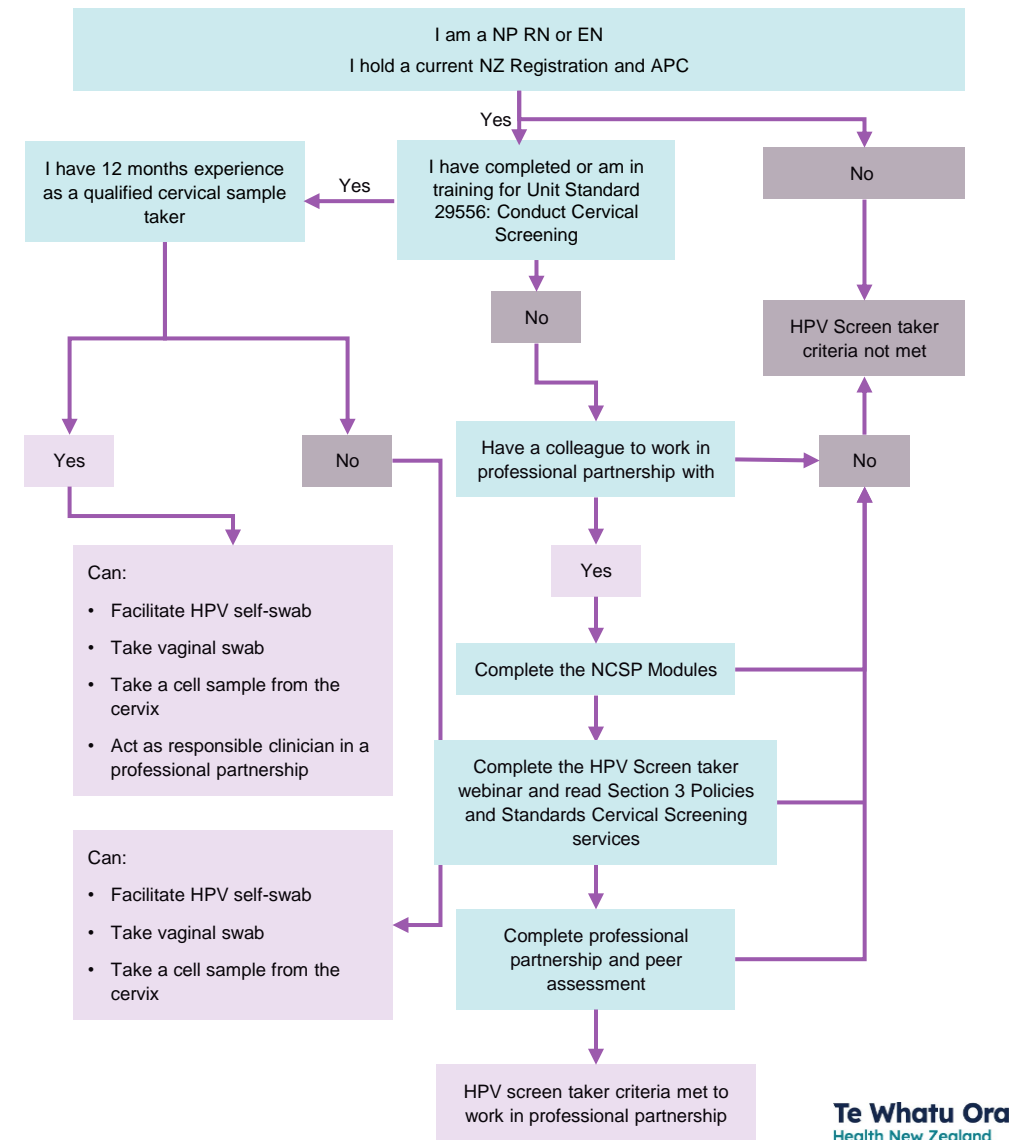
*It is people, it is people, it is people.*

**Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa**  
New Zealand Government

# Learning Pathway for HPV Screen-takers

## Learning tasks:

1. Establish a professional partnership
2. Complete all four NCSP learning modules
3. Be familiar with NCSP Clinical Practice Guidelines and Section 3 Policies and Standards
4. Complete a professional partnership assessment and agreement



### Learning Task List

1. Establish a professional partnership with a responsible clinician
2. Complete the four NCSP Cervical Screening with Human Papillomavirus (HPV) testing training modules
3. Be familiar with the updated National Cervical Screening Programme Policies and Standards Section Three: Cervical Screening Services and the [Clinical Practice Guidelines for Cervical Screening in Aotearoa New Zealand](#).
4. Complete a professional partnership assessment and agreement with the nominated responsible clinician



# Requirements of the role

1 I understand my responsibilities under Part 4a Section 112L of the Health Act 1956

2 I understand the key messages to be provided to the participants

3 I understand who can be offered HPV screening and what to do if an LBC sample is indicated, the participant has symptoms or is not due further screening.

4 I understand how to check screening history, eligibility and next expected event

# Legislative responsibilities

## *Duties to provide information to women and to NCSP*

Heading: inserted, on 7 March 2005, by [section 4](#) of the Health (National Cervical Screening Programme) Amendment Act 2004 (2004 No 3).

### **112L Duties of persons taking specimens for screening tests**

- (1) Every person who takes a specimen from a woman for the purpose of a screening test, and who believes that it is that woman's first screening test in New Zealand, must—
  - (a) explain the procedure and provide information about the importance of having regular screening tests, the objectives of the NCSP, the risks and benefits of participation in the NCSP, who has access to information on the NCSP register, and the uses to which that information may be put; and
  - (b) advise the woman that she will be enrolled in the NCSP, but that she may prevent or cancel that enrolment by advising the NCSP manager under [section 112G](#).
- (2) Every person who takes a specimen from a woman for the purpose of a screening test, and who believes that it is not that woman's first screening test in New Zealand, must provide that woman with information about the procedure and about the NCSP to the extent that is reasonable in the circumstances.
- (3) Subsections (1) and (2) do not limit any other obligation to provide information that arises under any other enactment or rule of law.

Section 112L: inserted, on 7 March 2005, by [section 4](#) of the Health (National Cervical Screening Programme) Amendment Act 2004 (2004 No 3).

# NCSP key messages and informed consent

Conversation needs to include:

- Options for cervical screening test
- What an HPV detected result means
- Information about the NCSP including information on the NCSP-Register
- Withdrawal from NCSP
- Options for cervical screening test
- What an HPV detected result means

Order from: [Cervical screening: what you need to know English HE1161 – HealthEd](#)

**What happens to my health information?**

Information is stored on a computer system, called the NCSP-Register, which is managed by Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand. The NCSP-Register is used to record your test results. This helps ensure important information is available to you and your healthcare providers and to manage your progress through the Programme, it also:

- sends out recalls and reminders
- supports you if you need support accessing cervical screening services
- provides information to enable evaluation and review of the Programme
- enables research, approved by an ethics committee
- helps with planning for national and regional services.

No reports or research produced will identify any individual.

You can look at the privacy section on the Time to Screen website for full details about how information collected by the Programme is securely managed.

You have a right to request your health information at any time by freephoning **0800 729 729** or emailing [Info@ncsregister.health.nz](mailto:Info@ncsregister.health.nz), and verifying your identity (full name, date of birth, NHI address).



**Pausing screening or withdrawing from the NCSP**

You can choose to withdraw from the NCSP at any time, or you can remain on the Register but opt out of receiving any communications. You can contact the Programme about either of these options and if you decide to withdraw, we will send you a form to complete. You can also find the form on our website. We will keep some of your identity details in our system with a note not to contact you again. All information about your cervical screening tests and history will be removed from our records.

You can re-join the Programme any time if you change your mind.

## How do I join the National Cervical Screening Programme?

You automatically become part of the Programme, if you are eligible, when you turn 25 or have your first cervical screening test, unless you have chosen to withdraw.



You need to be on the NCSP-Register to get an invitation, recalls and reminders to screen. If you are not sure if you are on the Register, call **0800 729 729** to check.

## CERVICAL SCREENING

What you need to know

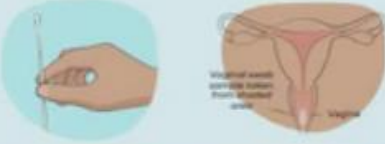

[TimeToCervicalScreen.nz](http://TimeToCervicalScreen.nz)



# Cervical Screening Options

## When is an LBC (smear) the best option?

- When the person chooses this
- If the screening history indicates this
- If there are symptoms

OPTION 1: Vaginal swab	OPTION 2: Cervical sample
<p>This will be suitable for most people. You will be advised if a different test is appropriate for you.</p>	<p>Previously called a smear test. This may be recommended for some people, and you can still choose this option if you prefer.</p>
<p><b>A) You can do it as a self-test</b></p> <p>Usually done in a private area at your screening appointment. Some screen-takers may offer community-based locations, a mobile unit, or a take-home option.</p>	<p><b>A cervical sample is taken by a trained health professional</b></p> <p>This can be done in clinical or community-based locations, or in a mobile unit.</p>
<p><b>B) A trained health professional can assist you</b></p> <p>A sample is collected from your vagina using a swab. The vaginal swab sample is tested only for HPV.</p>	<p>Your screen-taker will take a sample of cells from your cervix using a speculum and small brush. The sample is first tested for HPV and, if HPV is found, it will also be checked for cell changes.</p>
	
<p><b>If HPV is not found</b></p> <p>Your next screening test will be in 5 years (or 3 years if you are immune deficient).</p>	<p><b>If HPV is not found</b></p> <p>Your next screening test will be in 5 years (or 3 years if you are immune deficient).</p>
<p><b>If HPV is found</b></p> <p>Depending on the type of HPV detected, you may need to have a cervical sample taken (what used to be called a smear test) to check for any cell changes or you may be referred to colposcopy to see if there are any changes to the cervix that may need treatment.</p>	<p><b>If HPV is found</b></p> <p>The same sample will be checked for any cell changes. Depending on the results, you may be referred to colposcopy to see if there are any changes to the cervix that may need treatment.</p>

# Korero about HPV

## Things to ask about:

- Ever had an abnormal test?
- Any discharge pain or bleeding that worries you?

You can choose how you want to have your screening done

It's a cervical screening test that you can do yourself

It's very easy, 99% of people do the test correctly

It checks for Human Papillomavirus (HPV), the virus that can cause cervical cancer

There's a couple of questions to go through to see if the test is right for you

If your self-test shows HPV a follow up test is recommended

# Screening history and eligibility

Know how to check due date and next expected event

1

Check your PMS

2

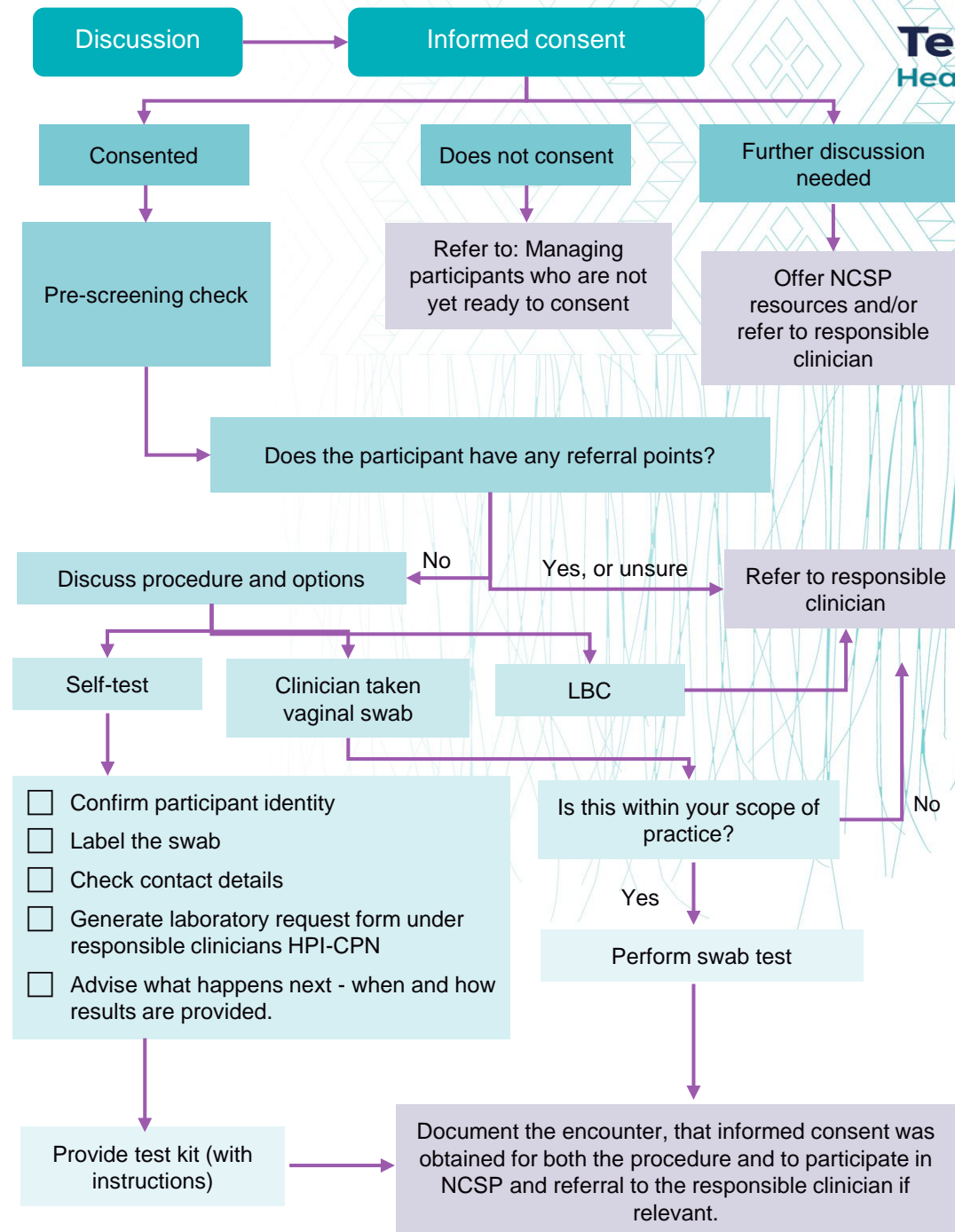
Contact your local Register team who can provide:

1. Screening history
2. Due date
3. Pathway status
4. Next expected event

3

**Local Register team**  
0800 729 729

# HPV Screen Takers Decision Flow Chart



Discussion

Informed consent

Consented

Does not consent

Further discussion needed

Pre-screening check

Refer to: Managing participants who are not yet ready to consent

Offer NCSP resources and/or refer to responsible clinician

Does the participant have any referral points?

Discuss procedure and options

Refer to responsible clinician

Self-test

Clinician taken vaginal swab

LBC

- Confirm participant identity
- Label the swab
- Check contact details
- Generate laboratory request form under responsible clinicians HPI-CPN
- Advise what happens next - when and how results are provided.

Is this within your scope of practice?

Perform swab test

Provide test kit (with instructions)

Document the encounter, that informed consent was obtained for both the procedure and to participate in NCSP and referral to the responsible clinician if relevant.

## Discussion points and informed consent

### Pre-screening checklist

#### Discussion

1. Information about NCSP (refer to NCSP Cervical Screening: What you need to know brochure)
2. Check eligibility including screening history
3. Talk about cervical screening options

#### Informed consent

4. Gain informed consent
  - Follow informed consent process for both the procedure and participation in the NCSP
  - Refer to resource if needed

## Managing Participants Who Are **Not yet ready to consent**

If a participant is **not yet ready** to consent, screen takers should offer participant the option(s) of:

1. Speaking to another screen taker or responsible clinician.

#### **AND/OR**

2. Provide information, support the participant to return for screening when they are ready.

Does the participant have any referral points?

### Pre-screening check

Check if participant has **one or more** of the following **referral points**:

#### Clinical History

- Immune deficiency
- Hysterectomy total/subtotal
- Any symptoms of concern to the participant, including:
  - Bleeding or spotting between periods
  - Bleeding after periods have stopped (after menopause)
  - Pain during sex, or bleeding or spotting after sex
  - Persistent pelvic pain
  - Unusual or persistent discharge from the vagina

#### Screening History / Next Expected Event on register

- Due for follow-up test / Test Of Cure
- A co-test is recommended



**Important note:** If the participant declines cervical screening and doesn't want to have communications from NCSP there are two options.

#### Option One

Participant opts out of NCSP communications – notify your Regional NCSP team and document this in the participant's record, notify their Primary Care provider if applicable.

#### Option Two

Participant chooses to withdraw from the programme – only demographic information is kept on the NCSP Register, all screening records are removed permanently.

The participant makes this request in writing to [info@ncspregister.health.nz](mailto:info@ncspregister.health.nz)



# Practice points

1 Always label the swab before you give it to the participant

2 Make sure you document that have given key messages and gained informed consent

3 Check that laboratory requests are generated with the Responsible Clinicians HPI

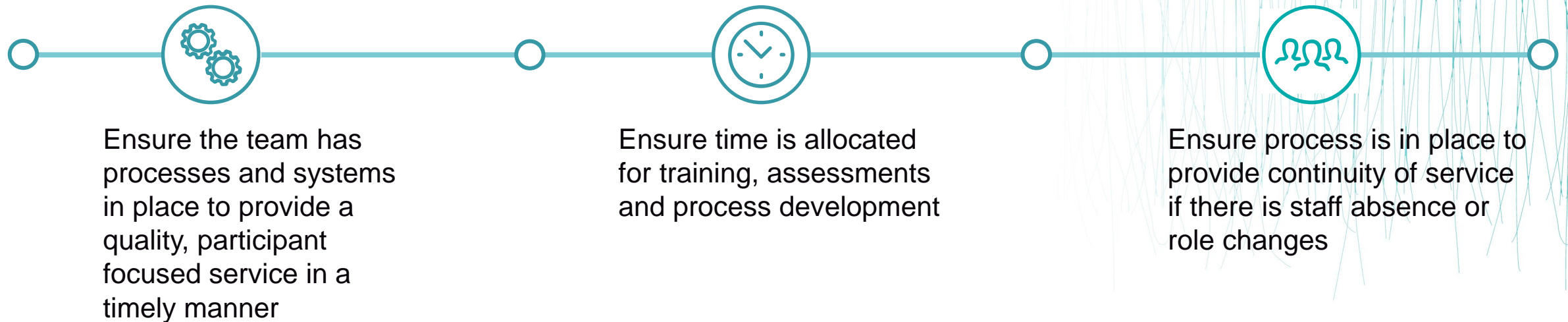
4 Make sure there are instructions available for participants

# Take home testing

Refer to NCSP Policies and Standards Section 3 Cervical Screening Services Standard 3.5.2

TOPIC	STANDARD	DETAIL	TARGET
<b>Self-testing at home or offsite</b>	<b>3.5.2</b> Participants are provided with clear guidelines for the collection and return of the specimen when offered option of self-testing when the responsible clinician is not present.	<p>Home testing and routine mail out is not delivered by the NCSP, cervical screening providers who choose to provide these options must do so in accordance with this standard.</p> <p>Responsible clinicians and cervical screening services must liaise with their local laboratory to ensure that the laboratory is aware and that swab storage and return requirements are met.</p> <p>Responsible clinicians are required to ensure that where participants are provided with the option of at home testing or testing where the responsible clinician is not present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• they are provided with a prelabelled swab for self-testing</li><li>• a check is undertaken to ensure that the prelabelled swab and laboratory request are for the same person</li><li>• they are provided with a laboratory request form that includes a field for date sample was taken</li><li>• they have a copy of NCSP how to take your HPV self-test instructions</li><li>• they have a copy of NCSP Cervical Screening –what you need to know</li><li>• they know who to contact if they have questions</li><li>• they are aware they need to complete the date the sample was taken on the laboratory request</li><li>• they know where to return the sample to</li><li>• they know the date the specimen must be returned by</li><li>• they know how to appropriately store the sample and timeframe for return after the sample has been taken</li><li>• they have a process in place to follow up with the participant to remind them to return the sample for testing</li></ul> <p>Cervical screening services and responsible clinicians must ensure that a record is made of the date the kit was provided and that it is clear that the self-test has not yet been undertaken.</p> <p><b>Practice point</b></p> <p>Set task or reminder to check for a result.</p>	

# Responsibilities for Cervical Screening Services

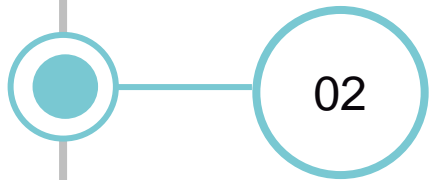


Working as a Responsible Clinician or HPV Screen taker is not a service decision

# Support



Regional NCSP team 0800 729 729

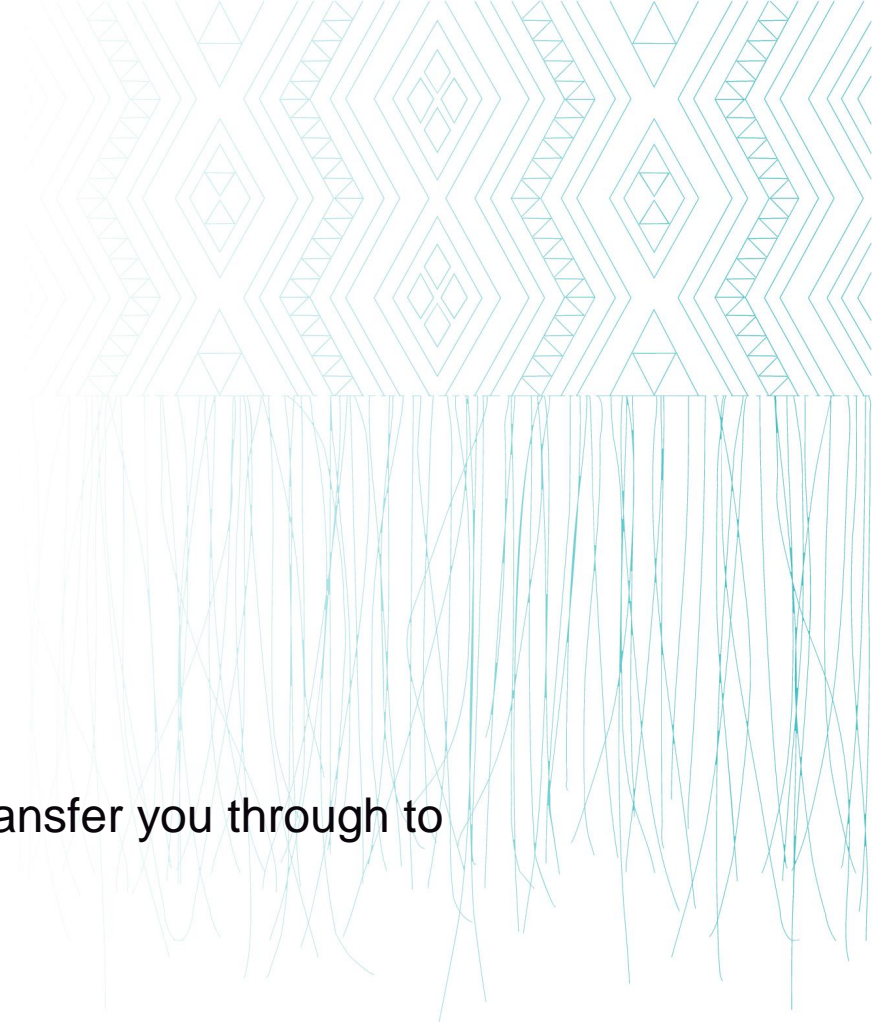


Clinical support is available – your local team can transfer you through to the national HPV Clinical Lead



HPV Screen taker resources

[Understanding HPV Primary Screening – Te Whatu Ora - Health New Zealand](#)



# Some feedback

"that was so easy!"

"I had the vaccine at school and now I get to have the test!"

"I can do it this way!"

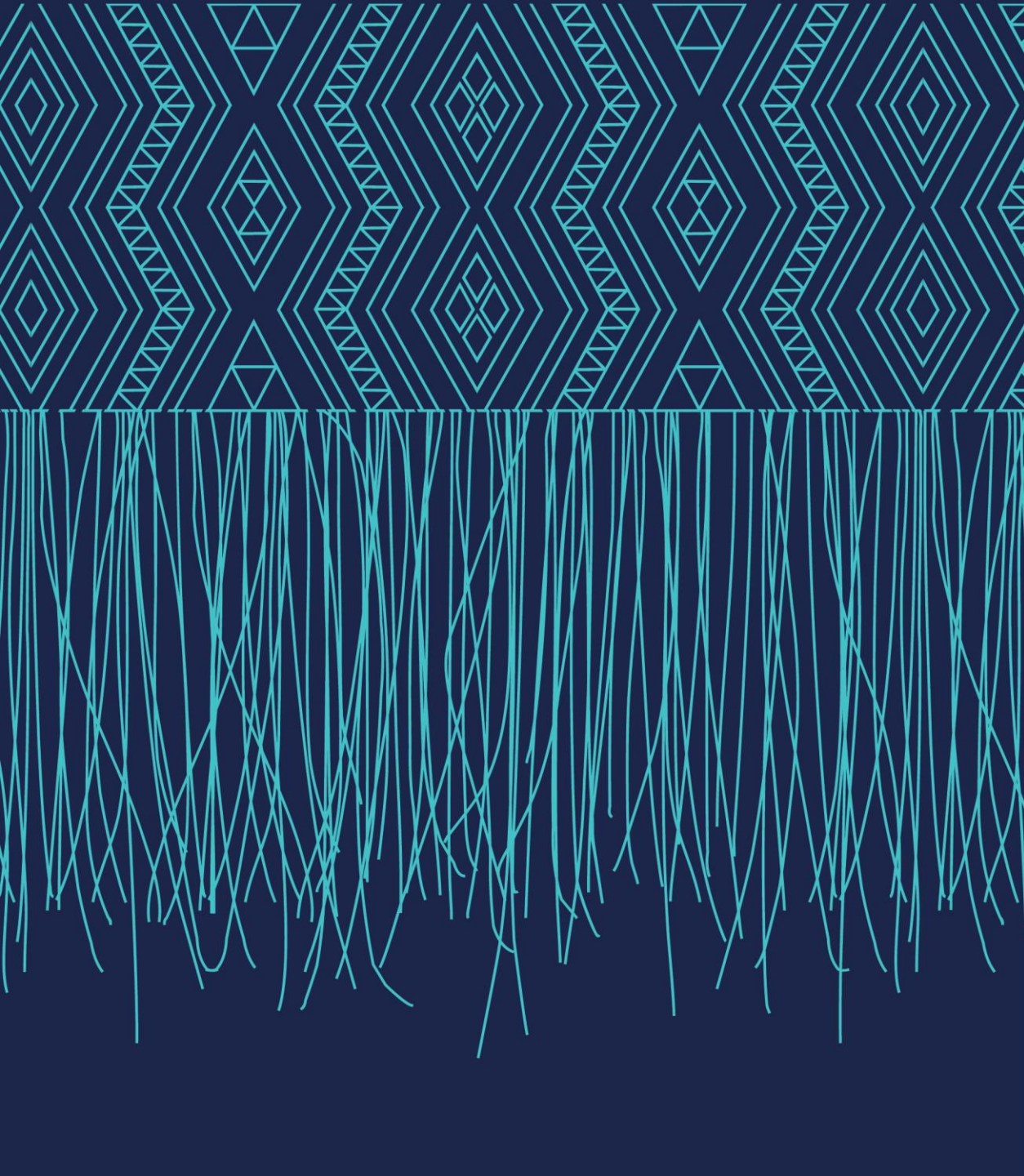
"I'm going to tell my sisters about this test"

*"I haven't had a smear for years – I had a terrible experience when I was young"*

"Like a COVID test but down there"

# Links

- ✓ HealthEd – resources, leaflets and posters - order for free
- ✓ Website for health professionals – [Understanding HPV Primary Screening – Te Whatu Ora - Health New Zealand](#)
- ✓ Website for participants - [Home | Time to Screen - National Screening Unit](#)
- ✓ Nursing Council NZ – scope of practice [Scopes of practice \(nursingcouncil.org.nz\)](#) including expanding scope of practice guidance documents



**Thank you!**

# Where to from here?



Work to form  
partnership and  
processes



Commence training



Prepare readiness  
checklist to work  
through