

DATE:	14 September 2026
TO:	All Health Care Providers that Perform Cervical Cancer Screening
FROM:	Alberta Precision Laboratories
RE:	Adherence to Follow-up Recommendations and Repeat Testing for Primary HPV Test Results

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- Starting Sept 15, 2026, cervical cancer screening test requests on community individuals aged 50-69 will be flagged and triaged for possible test cancellation if follow up testing intervals are not adhered to.
- Specimens for cervical cancer screening from patients with a Negative Primary HPV test result within the previous 3 years will not be processed and will be cancelled.
- Patients with a Positive Primary HPV test result within the previous 9 months will be flagged and triaged.
 - Those with a recommendation of repeat in 12 months or Refer to Colposcopy on their previous Primary HPV test will be cancelled
 - Those with a recommendation of repeat in 3 months on their Primary HPV test will be processed.

Background

- Testing for High-Risk HPV (hrHPV) improves early detection and allows for extended screening intervals, reducing the lifetime screening burden and unnecessary repeat testing.
- Patients with negative hrHPV tests are recommended to repeat cervical cancer screening in 5 years; if immunocompromised, repeat in 3 years.
- Patients with positive hrHPV tests are monitored or directed to colposcopy dependent on genotyping, cytology results, immunocompromised status, and recommended follow-up timeframes.

How this will impact you

Scenario	Protocol/Action
Negative Primary HPV test within the previous 3 years	Cervical cancer screening requests will not be processed and will be canceled with a comment advising to follow the recommended follow-up interval from the previous cervical cancer screening test
Positive Primary HPV test within the previous 9 months	- Cervical cancer screening requests will be canceled with a comment advising to follow the recommended follow-up interval from the previous cervical cancer screening test. - Patients may not be eligible for colposcopy if follow-up testing is performed outside the recommended screening intervals.



Other age groups (less than 49 years)	No change to specimen collection, screening method or clinical recommendations
Primary HPV test orders placed through AHS Epic	Orders will be flagged and triaged according to the above protocol.

Action Required

- Review and follow updated screening algorithm (HPV Primary Clinical Pathway) for ages 50-69 at ahs.ca/hpvtesting or scan the QR code to access pathway:



- Continue to follow guidance on laboratory reports for follow up.
- Alberta Cervical Cancer Screening Program (ACCSP) will continue sending screening invitations, result recalls and follow-up letters to eligible women
- Symptomatic patients should be referred as per the Provincial Adult Gynecology Referral Pathway

Effective September 15, 2026

Questions/Concerns

- Dr. Anna Piskorski, Medical Lead, Hub Lab North Cytology at Anna.Piskorski@albertaprecisionlabs.ca
- Dr. Marcia Abbott, Medical Lead, Hub Lab South Cytology at Marcia.Abbott@albertaprecisionlabs.ca

Approved by

- Dr. Michael Mengel, Medical Director, North Sector, Alberta Precision Laboratories
- Dr. Kate O'Connor, Medical Director, South Sector, Alberta Precision Laboratories