

DML & LabPLUS Meet NCSP Operational Policy & Quality Standards

All laboratories performing cervical cytology hold a contract with the National Screening Unit and must meet the NCSP Operational Policy and Quality Standards (OPQS). DML and LabPLUS are the only laboratories in the Auckland region to hold a contract. We meet all the requirements under the standards.

Laboratories must be able to correlate cytology and histology data and microscopically review all cases where there is discordance between the cytology and histology results with clinical management implications.

The NCSP OPQS state:

“In order to facilitate efficient histology/cytology correlation, it is best practice for:

- Histology specimens to be sent to the same laboratory that reported the gynaecological cytology.
- Excisional histology specimens to be sent to the same laboratory that reported the punch biopsy histology.”

Correlation of Histology and Cytology at DML & LabPLUS:

NCSP OPQS - Standard 521: All histology results must be correlated with any cytology slides, with management implications taken in the previous six months and the results recorded for audit and statistical purposes.

All ThinPrep® cytology and cervical biopsies received by DML and LabPLUS are tested in Auckland. Therefore the laboratories have ready access to both cytology and histology results and also slides for correlation purposes. DML archives cervical cytology slides for 20 years, over and above the NCSP requirement of 14 years.

Reviewing Cases with a High Grade Diagnosis:

NCSP OPQS - Standard 522: All cases (100%) with a high grade/invasive diagnosis on histology must have a review of any prior cytology slides reported as negative, benign/reactive, or unsatisfactory in the previous 42 months.

DML receives all cervical biopsies from the Auckland community, therefore enabling ThinPrep® cytology slides reported as 'negative', 'benign/reactive', or 'unsatisfactory' in the previous 42 months to be quickly retrieved for review.

Management of Discordant Results:

NCSP OPQS: If a lesion correlating with the cytology cannot be confirmed on the histology specimen the cytology slide must be reviewed. If following review of the cytology a high grade lesion is confirmed this must be communicated to the colposcopist.

Multi-disciplinary meetings are joint meetings of gynaecologists, a histo/cytopathologist and a senior medical laboratory scientist to discuss **best patient management** and care.

A patient list is generated by local gynaecologists, with most cases having a discordant cytology and histology result or colposcopic findings which are discordant with the cytology and/or histology result. A senior cytology scientist retrieves and reviews the cytology with a histo/cytopathologist who also reviews the cervical biopsy.

The findings are discussed in conjunction with colposcopic findings, age of the patient, previous history and management recommendations from multiple gynaecologists, to ensure best practice and patient management.

The MDMs offer a further opportunity for the continuing education of cytopathologists and cytology scientists alike.



High Risk Human Papilloma Virus (HrHPV) Testing

All ThinPrep® sample vials are stored on-site at DML and are retrieved for HrHPV testing if a smear shows evidence of any abnormalities that qualify for testing under the funded NCSP criteria.

If there are special circumstances where a referrer considers HrHPV testing is required outside the funded NCSP criteria, a request to the laboratory can be made either by telephone or by indication on the request form. There is a patient fee for non-funded HrHPV testing. Please contact the laboratory on 571 4000 to obtain the current price.

