

DATE:	17 March 2026
TO:	All Health Care Providers that Perform Cervical Cancer Screening
FROM:	Alberta Precision Laboratories and Alberta Cervical Cancer Screening Program
RE:	Update to patient management of immunocompromised patients testing positive for High-Risk HPV detected-other or indeterminate on their cervical cancer screening test

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Key Message

- Effective March 17th, 2026, Immunocompromised patients testing positive or indeterminate for any high-risk HPV (hrHPV) genotype on their HPV primary test are recommended to have colposcopy performed.
- This applies only to patient age groups that are eligible for HPV primary cervical cancer screening (currently ages 50-69).

Background/Rationale

- Previously, the HPV primary Clinical Pathway indicated that only those testing positive for HPV 16 or 18 or those with other hrHPV genotypes with abnormal cytology findings were referred to colposcopy.
- Due to the higher risk of developing cervical cancer, it is recommended that immunocompromised patients testing positive for any hrHPV regardless of cytology/pap findings should get colposcopy.
- Direct referral to colposcopy, rather than repeating cervical cancer screening in one year, shortens the time to diagnostic assessment and reduces the risk of progression to more advanced disease.

How this will impact you/actions required

- Indicate patient Immunocompromised status clearly on the requisition or cervical screening test order.
- No change to the current APL [Gynecological Cytopathology Requisition](#) or Cervical Cancer screening collection devices.
- No change for other age groups (<50 Years old), regarding specimen collection, screening method, or clinical recommendations.
- Review the updated screening algorithm (**HPV Primary Clinical Pathway**) for ages 50-69 years old at <https://screeningforlife.ca/for-health-providers/cervical-screening-information/>. **QR code:**



- For additional clinician resources, refer to: <https://screeningforlife.ca/for-health-providers/cervical-screening-information/#hpvtesting>
- Continue to follow guidance on laboratory reports for follow up. Include both the patient's HPV and Pap test results on the colposcopy referral form.
- The ACCSP will continue sending screening invitations, results, recalls and follow-up letters to eligible women.

Questions/Concerns

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



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