



What is the purpose of HPV reflex testing?

The purpose of HPV reflex testing is to detect the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) in a Pap test sample and to help decide what follow up is needed for people in specific age groups with a low-grade Pap test result (ASC-US or LSIL).

Who is eligible for an HPV reflex test?

The lab will automatically perform HPV reflex testing on people ≥ 30 years whose Pap test result is ASC-US and for people ≥ 50 years whose Pap test result is LSIL. (See excerpt from Cervical Cancer Screening Clinical Practice Guideline below.)

What if my patient's HPV reflex is positive?

Referral to a colposcopist is recommended for people with a Pap result of ASC-US who are ≥ 30 years of age or LSIL who are ≥ 50 years of age **and a positive HPV reflex result**. These patients are classified as high risk and require follow-up care to determine if treatment is required. See the [Follow-up for Abnormal Pap Test Algorithm](#).

What if my patient's HPV reflex result is negative?

Routine screening in accordance with the guideline is recommended for people with a Pap result of ASC-US who are ≥ 30 years of age or LSIL who are ≥ 50 years of age **and a negative HPV reflex result**. The risk of cervical cancer in the next three years for this population is approximately the same people who have a normal Pap test result.

What if my patient has had the HPV vaccine?

The HPV vaccine does not protect against all HPV strains that cause cervical cancer. Even if your patient has had the HPV vaccine they should continue to screen in accordance with the guideline recommendations.

Will the patient's Pap and HPV result be communicated to them?

The Screening Program for Cervical Cancer (SPCC) is coordinated by the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency in partnership with health-care providers. The SPCC communicates screening test results, including HPV reflex test results to people across Saskatchewan. Results will also be available to patients on MySaskHealthRecord as a combined report with Pap and HPV results. To learn more about the SPCC and how the program works please call 1-800-667-0017 or visit <http://saskcancer.ca/health-professionals-article/cancer-screening-guidelines-and-resources/cervical-cancer-screening>.

Should I recommend HPV vaccination?

Yes. The National Advisory Committee on Immunization recommends HPV vaccination for all people between ages nine and 26, and it is approved for women up to the age of 45. Saskatchewan's school-based immunization program vaccinates children in grade 6 with Gardasil®9. In the 2017-18 school-based program, 69.1% of girls were immunized. Saskatchewan has a HPV vaccination catch-up program and a program for immunocompromised persons. Research has shown that the vaccination of young women in catch-up programs is effective for improving herd immunity and reducing risk of invasive cervical cancer. HPV vaccination should be offered to people who do not qualify for publicly funded programs. Many insurance plans will cover HPV vaccination or the individual may choose to pay out of pocket.

More on HPV vaccination at: www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/health/accessing-health-care-services/immunization-services

Excerpt from Cervical Cancer Screening Clinical Practice Guideline¹

Pap Test Result	Recommended Management
Atypical squamous cells of undetermined significance (ASC-US)	Patients ≥ 30 years (<i>The lab will automatically perform HPV reflex testing</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HPV Negative → return to routine screening as if cytology were negative HPV Positive → refer to colposcopy HPV No Result → submit vaginal swab for repeat HPV testing
Low-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion (LSIL)	Patients ≥ 50 years (<i>The lab will automatically perform HPV reflex testing</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HPV Negative → return to routine screening as if cytology were negative HPV Positive → refer to colposcopy HPV No Result → submit vaginal swab for repeat HPV testing

¹ Full guidelines available at http://saskcancer.ca/images/pdfs/health_professionals/clinical_resources/cancer_screening_guidelines_and_resources/Cervical%20Cancer%20Screening%20Guidelines.pdf
The Follow-Up for Abnormal Pap Test Algorithm is available at http://www.saskcancer.ca/images/pdfs/screening/Cervical/SPCC_FollowUp_for_Abnormal_Pap_Test_Algorithm.pdf
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