



NATIONAL  
**CERVICAL SCREENING**  
PROGRAM

A joint Australian, State and Territory Government Program

## Important information about the National Cervical Screening Program

29 November 2017

### UPDATE

**Self-collection of samples should not be offered to women with the commencement of the renewed program on 1 December 2017 until further notice.**

One of the components of the renewed National Cervical Screening Program is the introduction of self-collected samples for HPV testing. The self-collection option has been included in the program to encourage women who are aged 30 years or over and have never had a screening test, or who are overdue for testing by at least two years and in either case have declined a healthcare provider-collected sample, to participate in cervical screening.

However, self-collection can only be implemented when the laboratory and platform testing processes and equipment attain the various accreditation requirements. This process is still underway. Laboratories are not yet accredited to perform the test and therefore the test is not claimable against the MBS.

Healthcare providers who conduct cervical screening tests are advised not to offer self-collection to eligible women until further notice. All other aspects of the renewed National Cervical Screening Program will go ahead as scheduled on 1 December 2017.

Further information on the Renewal of the National Cervical Screening Program is available at [www.cancerscreening.gov.au/cervical](http://www.cancerscreening.gov.au/cervical).



Australian Government  
Department of Health