

## Northern Territory Protocol for Cervical Screening in Pregnancy

Pap tests should be offered to all pregnant women presenting for antenatal care who have not had a Pap test performed in accordance with national guidelines.

This should be undertaken as part of antenatal care, ideally before 24 weeks gestation.

Women should be advised there is no evidence that a Pap test causes any pregnancy problems.

Pregnant women should be advised that vaginal spotting may occur after the procedure: this poses no risk to the pregnancy.

Women with a history of threatened miscarriage or pre-term labour may be reluctant to undergo a Pap test during pregnancy; in this case the woman should be advised to present for screening in the post natal period.

### Pap Test Collection In Pregnancy

The preferred Pap test collection device is the soft cervical sampler broom.

Do not use the endocervical brush, the cervix- brush combi or the hybrid capture brush.

#### Contact Details

CervicalScreenNT  
PO Box 40596, Casuarina 0811  
P: (08) 8922 6454  
F: (08) 8922 6455



Source: Cervix Sampling Card PapScreen Victoria

Source: Department of Health and Ageing, National Cervical Screening Program – Policy for screening during pregnancy.

CervicalScreenNT  
Cancer Screening Services

## The Northern Territory Pap Smear Register

### What is the NT Pap Smear Register (NT PSR)?

The primary purpose of the Register is to assist in implementing the National Cervical Screening Program by acting as a back-up overdue reminder system providing information to health practitioners about women's test results, and monitoring performance of laboratories.

### Benefits of the Register

- **Reminder system.** The Register will send an overdue reminder notice to a woman and her practitioner when she becomes overdue for a Pap test or other follow up tests. ***This is a backup and not a replacement for health practitioner recall systems.***
- **Follow up of abnormalities.** More intensive overdue reminder schedules are in place for women whose last test was not normal.
- **Improved reporting.** Labs have access to a woman's previous test results to assist with reporting and making clinical recommendations.
- **Past Histories.** Health practitioners can call the Register to ascertain a woman's previous results if she consents during a consultation in order to assist with clinical management.

The Register is **NOT** a primary recall system and is unable to supply lists of women who are due for a Pap test. Staff should conduct a file review of their own clinic records prior to calling the NT PSR Data Administrator.

When providing a list of women believed to be overdue for a Pap test (on a 'Request for cervical screening information' form) to the PSR please give details of the woman's names (skin names if applicable), date of birth, HRN if known and the last Pap test date (if known). Email or fax this to the PSR.

Contact the PSR for a '***Request for Cervical Screening Information***' form or email [ntpapsmearregister.ths@nt.gov.au](mailto:ntpapsmearregister.ths@nt.gov.au) and one will be forwarded to you.

### Contacting the Register

#### NT Pap Smear Register

Cancer Screening Services

PO Box 40596

Casuarina NT 0811

Phone: 13 15 56

Fax: (08) 8922 6455

Email: [ntpapsmearregister.ths@nt.gov.au](mailto:ntpapsmearregister.ths@nt.gov.au)