

31 August 2020

Cancer Council Australia
GPO Box 4708
Sydney NSW 2001

Via email: guidelines@cancer.org.au

Dear Cancer Council Australia,

Re: Partial update to the Cervical Cancer Screening Guidelines

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the partial update of the cervical cancer screening guidelines. Our comments on the *oncogenic HPV types not 16/18* and *self-collected vaginal samples* sections are outlined below.

Oncogenic HPV types not 16/18

The algorithm that is outlined in this update is a complicated tool to follow and there is, therefore, a risk that mistakes could be made and some women at higher risk may be overlooked.

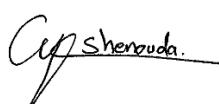
It may be more effective if the algorithm were simplified and all women with persistent HPV oncogenic types (not 16/18) on their 12 month-repeat test be referred for colposcopy. While this is likely to result in slightly more colposcopies, this may be balanced out against the risk that some women at higher risk 'fall through the cracks' because of information gaps or errors in interpreting the algorithm. If not already done so, we recommend the Cancer Council give the above serious consideration.

Self-collected vaginal samples

Self-collected samples should not be restricted to particular groups and should be the patient's choice. Follow up sampling for patients who test positive for HPV should preferably be physician collected. A self-collected sample would be satisfactory to use if physician collection is not available. However, this may mean the patient is more likely to require a colposcopy.

The RACGP appreciates the opportunity to engage in these important guidelines. For any enquiries regarding this letter, please contact Stephan Groombridge, eHealth and Quality Care Manager on 03 8699 0544 or stephan.groombridge@racgp.org.au.

Yours sincerely



Dr Ayman Shenouda
Acting President