

<b>Care Directive Title:</b>	Cervical Screening by Registered Nurses in Primary Health Care	
<b>Applies To:</b>	Registered Nurses working in Primary Health Care	
<b>Approved:</b>	<b>Effective:</b>	<b>Next Review:</b>
Dec. 16, 2020	Jan. 18, 2021	Dec. 16, 2024
<b>Sponsor:</b>	Senior Director, Primary Health Care and Chronic Disease Management Senior Medical Director, Primary Health Care and Disease Management	
<b>Issuing Authority:</b>	HAMAC	
<b>Number:</b> CD-PHC-035	<b>Manual:</b> Primary Health Care	

## PURPOSE

This care directive (CD) provides the order for the Registered Nurse (RN) in Primary Health Care to perform cervical screening. Cervical screening is performed according to the [Nova Scotia Cervical Cancer Screening Practice Guidelines](#).

During the cervical screening exam, the RN may perform bimanual examination based on a collaborative decision between the authorized prescriber and the RN within the practice setting.

**NOTE:** This care directive does **NOT** allow bimanual exam independent of cervical screening.

## POLICY STATEMENTS

1. The RN must obtain initial training, which includes:
  - 1.1. Review of this policy
  - 1.2. Completion of the following [learning modules and exam](#):
    - 2SLGBTQIA+ Awareness
    - Exploring Gender Diversity, and
    - Intro to Working with Transgender Clients.
  - 1.3. [PAP Training Guideline for Registered Nurses](#).
  - 1.4. Demonstration of Competency in the skill to a health care professional competent in cervical screening.

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- 1.5. Perform an ongoing self-assessment of competence by reviewing learning modules and exam as needed,
  - Develop a plan to address any identified deficit with immediate supervisor.
2. The RN must review and follow [NSCN Care Directives: Guidelines for Nurses](#).
3. The RN is responsible to assess and determine the appropriateness of implementing this CD.
4. The RN must follow the [Nova Scotia Cervical Cancer Screening Practice Guidelines](#).
5. The RN may perform bimanual examination as per agreed upon practice with the AP.
6. An Authorized Prescriber (AP) must be available for consultation in the event of complications or concerns, in person or remotely.
7. Before cervical screening is initiated, the RN must obtain Informed Consent from the patient/client or substitute decision maker.
8. The RN who performs the patient/client cervical assessment is responsible and accountable to perform the appropriate cervical screening.
9. If the RN notes an abnormal looking cervix, they must contact the AP for the plan of care.
10. Unless recommended by the manufacturer, the cytobrush must not be used on patients who are pregnant.
11. The name of the AP must be included on the lab requisition for review and follow up.
12. Documentation of the cervical screening must follow the [NSCN Documentation for Nurses](#).

## PROCEDURE

1. Follow the [PAP Screening Guideline for Registered Nurses](#).
2. Perform the cervical screening and bimanual examination (if applicable).
3. Obtain and document Informed Consent for the papanicolaou test as per Relevant Local Policy.
4. Complete the cytology requisition:
  - 4.1. Include the name of the Registered Nurse and appropriate Laboratory Information System (LIS) (Central Zone only) or registry ID number (all other zones) on the cytology requisition.
  - 4.2. Include the name of the AP; for review and follow-up.
    - The patient who does not have a Primary Health Care Provider will have their results reviewed by the AP identified by local procedure.
5. Submit a properly identified specimen: This includes [two patient specific identifiers](#) on the specimen collection container.
  - 5.1. Ensure the information on the requisition matches the specimen.

- 5.2. Once documentation is complete, place the specimen requisition in the outside envelope of the specimen bag. Place the specimen inside the specimen bag.
6. Transport both requisition and specimen promptly to the laboratory.

## REFERENCES

- Cancer Care Nova Scotia. (2015, January). *Pap training guideline for registered nurses*. Retrieved from [www.cdha.nshealth.ca/system/files/sites/77/documents/pap-training-manual-2015-final.pdf](http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/system/files/sites/77/documents/pap-training-manual-2015-final.pdf)
- Evans, D., Goldstein, S., Loewy, A., & Altman, A. D. (2019). No. 385-Indications for pelvic examination. *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Canada*, 41(8), 1221-1234. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jogc.2018.12.007>
- Nova Scotia College of Nursing. (2019). *Care directives: Guidelines for Nurses*. Retrieved from: <https://cdn1.nscn.ca/sites/default/files/documents/resources/CareDirectives.pdf>
- Nova Scotia Health Authority Cancer Care Program. (2019). *Cervical cancer screening: Quick reference card*. Retrieved from <http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/system/files/sites/77/documents/cervical-cancer-screening-qr-card2019.pdf>
- Tonelli, M., Connor Gorber, S., Moore, A., & Thombs, B.D. (2016). Recommendations on routine screening pelvic examination. *Canadian Family Physician*, 62(3), 211-214. <https://www.cfp.ca/content/62/3/211.full>
- United Nations. (n.d.) *Guidelines for gender-inclusive language in English*. Retrieved from <https://www.un.org/en/gender-inclusive-language/guidelines.shtml>

## RELATED DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES

[Cervical Cancer Prevention Resources](#)

[Client Identification](#)

[Micromedex](#)

[PAP Training Guideline for Registered Nurses](#)

[SexandU.ca](#)

### Brochures

[Cervical Cancer Screening: A Guide to Your Pap Test Results](#)

### Appendices

[Appendix A: Definitions](#)

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## Appendix A: Definitions

<b>Authorized Prescriber</b>	<p>A health care professional permitted by legislation, their regulatory college, Nova Scotia Health, and practice setting (where applicable) to prescribe medications and treatments. The authority to order medications is not linked to any particular health profession, and may also differ within that health care profession depending upon specific competencies and skills.</p> <p>Examples of an Authorized Prescriber may include, but are not limited to, a physician, medical resident, Nurse practitioner, pharmacist with Additional Prescribing Authorization, midwives, or a registered dietician approved to order parenteral nutrition.</p>
<b>Competency</b>	<p>The combined knowledge, skills, judgment and attributes that are required of the Registered Nurse to practice ethically and safely in a certain role or setting (<i>College of Registered Nurses of Nova Scotia, 2012</i>).</p>
<b>Informed Consent</b>	<p>Consent to treatment that is made on the basis of accurate and complete information with a goal to protect the patient's right to make autonomous decisions (<i>Perry &amp; Potter, 2014</i>).</p>
<b>Inclusive Language</b>	<p>Language that is free of bias. This can include gender-neutral language, but extends to any language that carries underlying assumptions that are tied to dominant belief systems. Using male pronouns when referring to a woman's partner whose gender is unknown, is an example of language that carries an assumption that is tied to belief systems that position heterosexuality as the natural/normal sexual orientation and is exclusionary to certain populations (United Nations, n.d.)</p>
<b>Relevant Local Policy</b>	<p>Policies of the former district health authorities that are in effect until superseded by NSHA policy.</p>

## District Health Authority Policies Being Replaced

N/A

### Version History

Version:	Effective:	Approved by:	What's changed:
Original	2021-Jan-18	HAMAC	N/A
[Revised / Reaffirmed]	YYYY-MM-DD	[Sponsor or Issuing Authority]	[Brief description]