

April 10, 2017

1st May - Changes to Cervical Screening

Further to the recent postponement in implementing the new National Cervical Cancer Screening Program, a new item number will be introduced for liquid based cytology commencing on Monday, 1st May. From this date, the following billing practices will be applied:

Referral May 1st to November 30th, 2017	Charges
Conventional smear only	Bulkbill
Liquid based cytology only (Thinprep or Surepath)	Bulkbill
Conventional smear AND liquid based cytology	\$35 out of pocket fee
HPV screening (non-MBS rebateable)	\$40 out of pocket fee

HPV testing for test of cure (MBS Item 69418) will continue to be performed according to the same Medicare criteria until the new National Cervical Cancer Screening program is introduced on 1st December this year. The postponement of the conversion to HPV screening has provided a number of challenges for our cytology teams in managing this transition. The out-of-pocket fee for referrals where both conventional smear and liquid based cytology referrals are received is to assist our efforts in providing better turnaround times for routine screening. We would like to thank you for your patience and understanding of the recent extension in turnaround times.

Providing you and your patients with reliable and accurate results in a timely and hassle-free manner is key for us, which is why we are committed to working closely with you throughout the coming months. Your local Medical Liaison Officer will be in contact with you to assist as these changes are implemented. In the meantime, please feel free to contact us directly if we can be of any assistance.

Yours sincerely,

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