

HPV Triage

Information For Healthcare Providers

HPV Triage

The human papillomavirus (HPV) test is a molecular DNA test. It detects oncogenic, high-risk HPV (hrHPV) genotypes that cause cervical cancer and its precursors. The HPV DNA test can be used on certain Pap test samples to help determine the appropriate follow-up. This is called HPV triage. HPV triage:

- identifies which patients would most benefit from colposcopy,
- decreases time to colposcopy by eliminating extra Pap tests,
- avoids over-treatment for patients who do not need colposcopy,
- reduces anxiety for those who do not need follow-up.

Eligibility

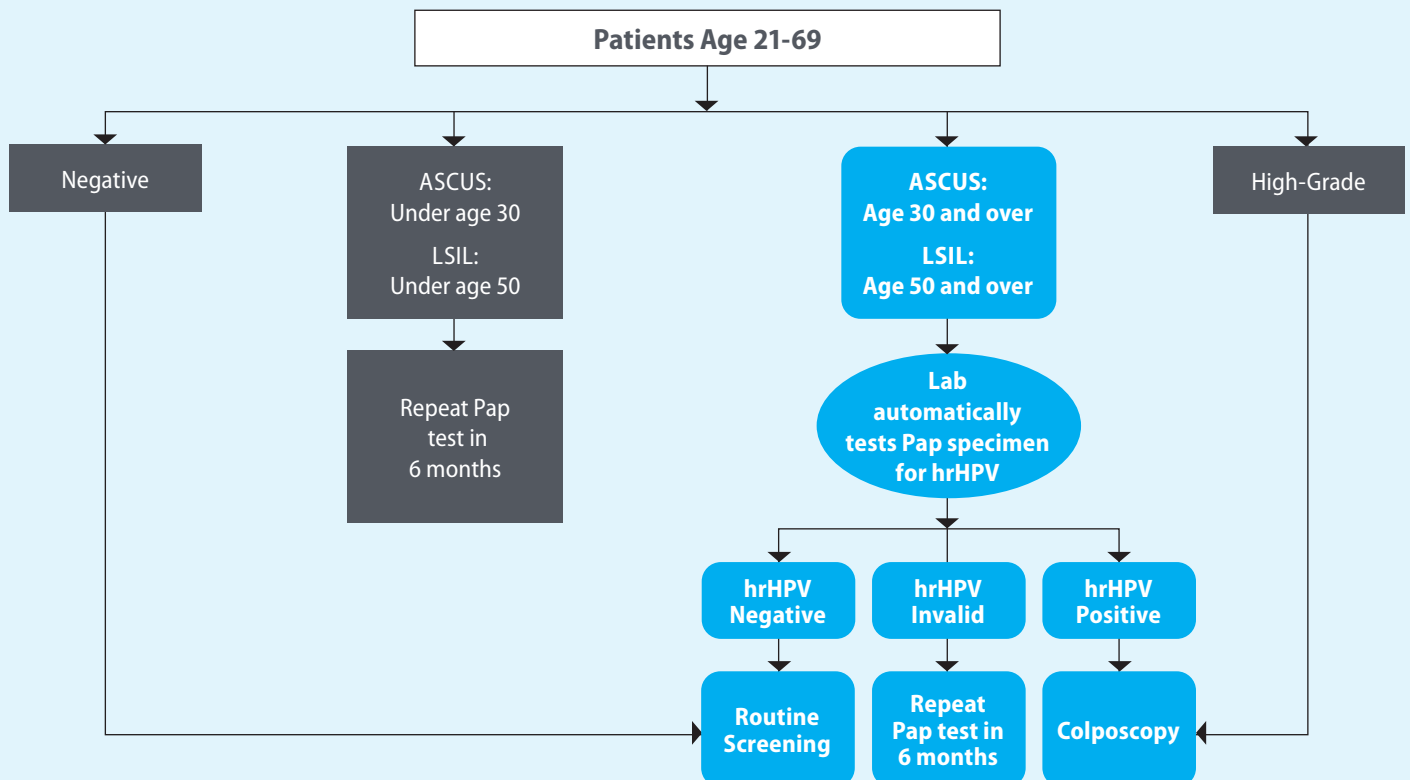
The lab will **automatically perform hrHPV testing** on the Pap test specimens of patients:

- 30 years of age and older with atypical squamous cells of undetermined significance (ASCUS) Pap test interpretation, and
- 50 years of age and older with low-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion (LSIL) Pap test interpretation.

HPV triage is **not** for women who do not meet the above criteria because most HPV infections in these women will disappear on their own.

Patients 21 to 29 years of age with ASCUS Pap test interpretations, and 21 to 49 years of age with LSIL Pap test interpretations should have repeat Pap test in six months. See the CervixCheck Guidelines for more information.

Cervical Cancer Screening Pathway with HPV Triage



Test Results

The lab will issue one ONE cervical cancer screening report which will include:

- Pap test interpretation
- High-risk HPV test result (positive or negative)
- Follow-up recommendation
- Educational note

The hrHPV test result will be positive if one or more of the hrHPV genotypes is detected. It will be reported as:

- Type 16 detected or not detected
- Type 18 detected or not detected, or
- Type Other detected or not detected. "Type Other" includes 12 other high-risk HPV types (31, 33, 35, 39, 45, 51, 52, 56, 58, 59, 66, 68).

CervixCheck, CancerCare Manitoba will send result letters to patients who test positive for hrHPV. Patients who test negative for hrHPV will be sent a recall letter for a Pap test in three years.

Result	What Does It Mean?	What Should I Do?
High-Risk HPV Positive	One or more types of high-risk HPV that are linked to high-grade lesions and cervical cancer has been detected. This patient is at higher risk for cervical cancer. It does not necessarily mean the patient has cervical cancer or will get cervical cancer. Colposcopy is required to determine if treatment is necessary.	Notify patient. Refer patient to colposcopy. Visit our website for a list of colposcopy services in Manitoba.
High-Risk HPV Negative	High-risk HPV was not detected. Risk for cervical cancer in next three years is very low.	Return patient to routine screening.
Invalid	The presence or absence of high-risk HPV could not be determined.	Notify patient. Repeat Pap test in 6 months.

Key messages for patients

- HPV is very common. Over 80% of people who have ever had sexual contact will have an HPV infection in their lifetime. HPV passes from person-to-person through sexual contact (wanted or unwanted). There is no way to know when or from whom HPV was passed.
- HPV is easily spread. Nearly half of women acquire an HPV infection from their first sex partner.
- 90% of HPV infections will disappear on their own.
- Very few people who have HPV get cervical cancer.
- It is impossible to know where the HPV infection originated.
- Having HPV does not mean that a partner has had other partners recently. A person can have HPV for many years before it develops into an infection.
- A referral to colposcopy will be made to see if treatment is needed. Encourage patients to attend all colposcopy appointments until formally discharged by the colposcopist.
- Patients who are HPV positive can still benefit from being vaccinated against HPV.
- Cervical cancer screening is still recommended for those who have been vaccinated against HPV because the HPV vaccine does not protect against all types of HPV that can cause cervical cancer.

Visit www.cancercare.mb.ca/screening/hcp for more information and to order patient and healthcare provider resources.