

The Three National Cancer Screening Programs

There are three cancer screening programs in Australia, which can help protect your patients' health by looking for particular changes and early signs of cancer before any symptoms emerge.

National Bowel Cancer Screening Program

Bowel cancer is one of the most common forms of cancer in Australia, especially for people over 50.

Approximately 17,000 people are diagnosed with bowel cancer each year, but 90% of cases can be treated successfully when detected early.

The National Bowel Cancer Screening Program invites eligible people aged 50-74 (without symptoms) to complete a free immunochemical faecal occult blood test (iFOBT) in the privacy of their own home.

Eligible people will receive an invitation through the mail to complete the free test kit at home and post it to the program's pathology laboratory for analysis.

People who receive a positive test result will be advised to make an appointment with their GP to discuss further investigations, such as a colonoscopy.

To find out more, call 1800 118 868 or visit the [National Bowel Cancer Screening Program](#) website.

BreastScreen Australia

One in seven women in Australia will develop breast cancer during their lifetime.

The BreastScreen Australia program aims to reduce illness and death from breast cancer through early detection using screening mammography.

BreastScreen Australia invites women aged 50-74 to have free two-yearly mammograms. Women aged 40-49 or over 75 are eligible for free mammograms, but they do not receive an invitation to attend.

As part of the program, BreastScreen WA provides over 120,000 screening mammograms each year to asymptomatic women in Western Australia.

Eligible women can have their free screening mammogram at one of BreastScreen WA's eleven [permanent screening clinics](#) or take advantage of their [mobile screening services](#) that visit almost 100 rural towns every two years.

When a woman's mammogram requires further investigation, she will be recalled to the assessment centre where the abnormality will be assessed by a multidisciplinary team.

If breast cancer is diagnosed, the woman will be referred back to her GP to be managed through the usual public or private health care services.

For more information, call 13 20 50 or visit the [BreastScreen WA](#) or [BreastScreen Australia](#) websites.

National Cervical Screening Program

On 1 December 2017, the National Cervical Screening Program was revised, based on recommendations by the Medical Services Advisory Committee.

The two-yearly Pap test was replaced by a five-yearly Cervical Screening Test for women aged 25-74, which detects infection with human papillomavirus (HPV). Women with symptoms (including pain or bleeding) can have a cervical test at any age.

Under the revised National Cervical Screening Program, practices and health care providers still perform an examination using a vaginal speculum and take a sample. However, the sample medium is now liquid based and tested for the presence of HPV.

For patients, the way the test is performed looks and feels the same as a Pap test.

If they haven't done so already, practices and health care providers must update their patient recall and reminder systems in line with the revised National Cervical Screening Program recommendations.

For more information, call 13 15 56 or visit the [National Cervical Screening Program](#) website.

To find out more about the MBS item numbers and descriptions, refer to the table on the next page.

National Cervical Screening Program – MBS item numbers and descriptions

Item Number	Description	Schedule Fee	85% Rebate
73070	A test, including partial genotyping, for oncogenic human papillomavirus (HPV) that may be associated with cervical pre-cancer or cancer: a) performed on a liquid based cervical specimen; and b) for an asymptomatic patient who is at least 24 years and 9 months of age. For any particular patient, once only in a 57-month period.	\$35	\$29.75
73071	A test, including partial genotyping, for oncogenic HPV that may be associated with cervical pre-cancer or cancer: a) performed on a self-collected vaginal specimen; and b) for an asymptomatic patient who is at least 30 years of age. For any particular patient, once only in a 7-year period.	\$35	\$29.75
73072	A test, including partial genotyping, for oncogenic HPV performed on a liquid based cervical specimen: a) for the investigation of a patient in a specific population that appears to have a higher risk of cervical pre-cancer or cancer; or b) for the follow up management of a patient with a previously detected oncogenic human papillomavirus infection or cervical pre-cancer or cancer; or c) for the investigation of a patient with symptoms suggestive of cervical cancer; or d) for the follow up management of a patient after treatment of high grade squamous intraepithelial lesions or adenocarcinoma in situ of the cervix; or e) for the follow up management of a patient with glandular abnormalities; or f) for the follow up management of a patient exposed to diethylstilboestrol in utero.	\$35	\$29.75
73073	A test, including partial genotyping, for oncogenic HPV: a) performed on a self-collected vaginal specimen; and b) for the follow up management of a patient with oncogenic human papillomavirus or cervical pre-cancer or cancer that was detected by a test to which item 73071 applies. For any particular patient, once only in a 21-month period.	\$35	\$29.75
73074	A test, including partial genotyping, for oncogenic HPV: a) performed on a liquid based vaginal vault specimen; and b) for the investigation of a patient following a total hysterectomy.	\$35	\$29.75

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<p>73075</p>	<p>A test, including partial genotyping, for oncogenic HPV, if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the test is a repeat of a test to which item 73070, 73071, 73072, 73073, 73074 or this item applies; and b) the specimen collected for the previous test is unsatisfactory. 	<p>\$35</p>	<p>\$29.75</p>
<p>73076</p>	<p>Cytology of a liquid based cervical or vaginal vault specimen, where the stained cells are examined microscopically or by automated image analysis by or on behalf of a pathologist, if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the cytology is associated with the detection of oncogenic HPV infection by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. a test to which item 73070, 73071, 73073, 73074 or 73075 applies; or II. a test to which item 73072 applies for a patient mentioned in paragraph a) or b) of that item; or b) the cytology is associated with a test to which item 73072 applies for a patient mentioned in paragraph c), d), e) or f) of that item; or c) the cytology is associated with a test to which item 73074 applies; or d) the test is a repeat of a test to which this item applies, if the specimen collected for the previous test is unsatisfactory; or e) the cytology is for the follow up management of a patient treated for endometrial adenocarcinoma. 	<p>\$46</p>	<p>\$39.10</p>

Whilst all care has been taken in preparing this document, this information is a guide only and subject to change without notice.

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