

Guidelines for women with previous Hysterectomy

Please note: Health providers' clinical opinion overrides the guidelines

SITUATION	GUIDELINE
Sub-total Hysterectomy (uterus removed but cervix remains)	Routine screening as per NCSP guidelines
Sub-total (Partial) Hysterectomy (uterus removed but incomplete removal of cervix)	Routine screening as per NCSP guidelines
Total Hysterectomy for benign reasons + Previous negative smear history	Further screening (i.e. a vaginal vault smear) is not required
Total Hysterectomy for benign reasons + Unknown smear history	One baseline vaginal vault smear required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If result normal → no further vaginal vault smears required • If result abnormal → screen as per NCSP guidelines
Total Hysterectomy + previous CIN1	Either of the following approaches could be used: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The NCSP recommends that women with histological evidence of CIN1 at any time in the past should have 3-yearly vault smears until age 70 years¹. 2. The RANZCOG provides the advice that women with previous smear or cervical biopsy with a low-grade lesion that had reverted to normal cervical cytology prior to hysterectomy do not need vaginal vault smears unless they are symptomatic².
Total Hysterectomy + previous CIN2 or CIN3	Guidelines for a high-grade abnormality apply, that is annual vaginal vault smears until age 70 years. However, subsequent to 2 consecutive vaginal vault smears and HPV tests 12 months apart, and both are negative, vault smears are required every 3 years until age 70 years ³ .
Total Hysterectomy for benign reasons + immunocompromised	If the woman has had a total hysterectomy (i.e. there is no remaining cervical tissue), and where there has been no previous abnormality, continue with 3-yearly vaginal vault smears until age 70 years. If the woman has had any previous abnormality, annual vault smears are required.
Total Hysterectomy for genital malignancy	The NCSP guidelines no longer apply as these women are under ongoing surveillance by an oncologist who will be providing advice on appropriate surveillance and care.

¹ Ministry of Health, 2008. *Guidelines for Cervical Screening in New Zealand*, page 40

² RANZCOG, 2007. Pap Smears after Hysterectomy, as cited in Ministry of Health, 2008. *Guidelines for Cervical Screening in New Zealand*, page 40.

³ Ministry of Health, 2008. NCSP Best Practice Guidance on HPV Testing, as cited in Ministry of Health, 2008. *Guidelines for Cervical Screening in New Zealand*, page 41.