

非傳染病處



Non-Communicable
Disease
Branch

本署檔號 Our Ref.: DH NCDB/7/18/1 XIII

5 August 2021

Dear Doctors,

Updated Recommendations on Cervical Cancer Screening

We write to inform you that the Cancer Expert Working Group on Cancer Prevention and Screening (CEWG) under the Cancer Coordinating Committee chaired by the Secretary for Food and Health has updated the recommendations on cervical cancer screening with introduction of human papillomavirus (HPV)-based testing.

Cervical cancer was the seventh commonest cancer among women in Hong Kong in 2018, and it was the eighth leading cause of cancer deaths among women in 2019. Cervical cytology has long been established as the primary screening strategy in Hong Kong. To stay abreast of emerging scientific evidence, the CEWG has kept monitoring and reviewing the development of HPV-based screening. Recent overseas' scientific evidence supports the use of HPV-based screening for cervical cancer. Locally, a study¹ conducted by the University of Hong Kong demonstrated that HPV testing as part of cervical screening led to earlier detection of clinically significant pre-invasive lesions. It also reaffirmed overseas findings that triage for HPV-positive women would be necessary to reduce colposcopy referrals.

Taking into consideration the scientific evidence, the CEWG has revised the cervical cancer screening recommendations which are summarised in **Annex I** and highlighted below-

- i. Women **aged 25 to 64** who ever had sexual experience are recommended to have regular cervical cancer screening.
- ii. For women **aged 30 to 64**, cervical cancer screening by cytology every three years, after two consecutive normal annual screenings, continues to be recommended. Owing to the potential increase in sensitivity, earlier and increased detection of precancerous lesions, larger reduction in incidence of precancerous lesions, longer screening intervals and feasibility



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¹ Chan KKL, Liu SS, Wei N, et al. Primary HPV testing with cytology versus cytology alone in cervical screening- A prospective randomized controlled trial with two rounds of screening in a Chinese population. Int J Cancer. 2020;147(4):1152-1162.

of self-sampling, when it comes to screening average-risk women aged 30 years or above, HPV-based screening, either in the form of stand-alone primary high-risk HPV testing or co-testing, can be adopted as an alternative to cytology testing. Re-screening of HPV-negative cases is recommended to be done every five years. In view of the higher false-positive rate and to avoid subsequent unnecessary colposcopy referral, triage is necessary for positive HPV testing. The Guidelines for Cervical Cancer Prevention and Screening by the Hong Kong College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists provides references on the recommended means of triage (https://www.hkcog.org.hk/hkcog/Download/Cervical_Cancer_Prevention_and_Screening_revised_November_2016.pdf).

- iii. For women **aged 25 to 29**, cervical cancer screening by cervical cytology every three years, after two consecutive normal annual screenings, continues to be recommended.
- iv. HPV testing should only target at high-risk HPV types (e.g. HPV-16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52 and 58).

To promulgate the latest CEWG recommendations on cervical cancer screening, the Department of Health, in collaboration with the Hong Kong College of Community Medicine, the Hong Kong College of Family Physicians and the Hong Kong College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, will co-organise a Webinar at 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm on **7 October 2021 (Thursday)**. All medical practitioners are welcome to join and may refer to the flyer in **Annex II** for more details. Registration form is available on the Centre for Health Protection's website at <https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/other/trainings/index.html>.

For details of the CEWG recommendations, please refer to the CHP's website at https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/cervical_cancer_professional_hp.pdf.

Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. Rita HO)

Head, Non-Communicable Disease Branch
Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health



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Updated CEWG Recommendations on Cervical Cancer Screening

(a) For asymptomatic population at Average risk

Women aged 25 to 29 who ever had sexual experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women aged 25 to 29 who ever had sexual experience are recommended to have cervical cancer screening by cytology every three years after two consecutive normal annual screenings.
Women aged 30 to 64 who ever had sexual experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women aged 30 to 64 who ever had sexual experience are recommended to have cervical cancer screening by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) cytology every three years after two consecutive normal annual screenings; or (ii) primary HPV testing every five years; or (iii) co-testing every five years. <p>* clinically validated high-risk HPV testing should detect high-risk HPV types (e.g. HPV- 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52 and 58) in samples taken from cervix.</p>
Women aged 65 or above who ever had sexual experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screening may be discontinued in women aged 65 or above if routine screening within 10 years are normal. • Women at or above 65 years of age who have never had cervical cancer screening should be screened.

(b) For persons at Increased risk

Women aged 21 to 24 who ever had sexual experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women aged 21 to 24 years who ever had sexual experience and with risk factors for HPV acquisition/persistence or cervical cancer are considered at increased risk. They may be screened by cytology every three years after two consecutive normal annual screenings, depending on doctor's assessment.
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other women at high risk of developing cervical cancer may require more frequent screens based on doctor's assessment.

For details of the CEWG recommendations, please refer to the CHP's website at https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/cervical_cancer_professional_hp.pdf.

Update on Cervical Cancer Screening Recommendations in Hong Kong by the Cancer Expert Working Group (CEWG)

Date: 7 October 2021 (Thursday)

Time: 2:30pm – 3:30pm

Topics: **(I) Human Papillomavirus Testing as Part of Cervical Screening – Findings from a Large Randomised Controlled Trial in Hong Kong**
Dr Karen CHAN Kar-loen
Head, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology,
LKS Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong

(II) Updated CEWG Recommendations on Cervical Cancer Screening

Dr Thomas TSANG Ho-fai
Chairman, CEWG

Format: Online Seminar (Webinar)

CME point: Pending

Registration: Please complete and return the registration form which is available in the Centre for Health Protection's website below

<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/other/trainings/index.html>



(Please note that no confirmation of registration will be sent to you while the ZOOM meeting ID will be provided through the email that you provided a few days prior to the webinar)

Organiser:



Co - Organisers:

