

PSIP CERVICAL/VAGINAL (PAP SMEAR) CYTOLOGY SERVICES

PSIP provides clinicians with all necessary Pap smear supplies. When a smear is received it is processed, interpreted and reported as timely as possible. Pap smears are picked up by courier in all locations where this service is available. Some remote locations require use of U.S. Mail. Reports are delivered by courier, mailed, faxed or electronically transmitted to the client to optimize turnaround time.

At the end of each month, a patient summary is sent to each client. This includes patient names and diagnoses. In addition, a patient recall report is sent out monthly. Patients with significant epithelial abnormalities or unsatisfactory smears are sent a recall report one month after the smear was interpreted. Recall reports for patients with mild abnormalities, such as squamous atypias of undetermined significance, are sent three months after the initial diagnosis and patients with normal smears receive a recall report twelve months after the initial interpretation.

Recall cards are also available on request. These are self-contained mailers which include the patient's name and address and a notice to the patient that they are due for their Pap smear. They also contain a separate attachment to be placed in the patient's record.

The PSIP information system is quite versatile and does allow access to selective information if needed for studies or other client-specific information.

The Pap smear report will include the Bethesda System Classification 2000, descriptive diagnoses (including presence or infectious/inflammatory agents), and specimen adequacy (including presence of endocervical cells). Maturation index is provided on request if vaginal material is supplied. The PSIP report will always include the most up-to-date classification systems including the most current versions of the Bethesda System.

Recommendations for follow-up may occasionally be given on a report if the diagnosis is unusual or uncertain. However, this is not standard. A table of recommended follow-up is provided in this manual (see PSIP Table of Comparable Diagnoses and Recommended Follow-up); and is available on request as a separate sheet.

It should be noted, the Pap smear is a screening test, not a diagnostic test. Negative or normal results do not necessarily exclude disease, while positive or abnormal findings require confirmation by repeat smear, colposcopy and/or biopsy. Pap smear results must always be correlated with the clinical history and physical examination. Every effort will be made at PSIP to correlate tissue findings with those of previous or concurrent Pap smears.