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## Māu anō e kuhu - do it yourself HPV test<sup>1</sup>

UPDATED July, 2021

### UPDATED Position Statement on Cervical Cancer Screening and HPV self-test implementation

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#### Ngā take matua – main points

- HPV self-test implementation must have Māori governance
- HPV self-test implementation must be designed equitably
- HPV self-test to treat pathway must be free of charge

#### Urgent recommendations for the National Cervical Screening Programme

- Establish resourced Māori governance over the HPV implementation programme
- Establish an interim solution and make HPV self-testing immediately accessible for Māori
- Resource Māori to develop and implement Māori enrolment, monitoring and evaluation frameworks
- Resource Māori to develop a comprehensive communications strategy including HPV self-testing guidelines

#### Update

In 2021 the government announced that HPV self-test would be introduced into Aotearoa New Zealand. The National Screening Unit is currently planning the implementation of the HPV self-test.

The HPV self-test programme could be one of New Zealand's first equitably designed screening programme, if the programme design and implementation is equity led and Te Tiriti compliant.

Hei Āhuru Mōwai is concerned with the current discussions about the diagnostic pathway and the inclusion of a compulsory smear after a positive HPV 16-18 test before being referred to colposcopy. Unless necessary, adding invasive tests to the diagnostic pathway can create another barrier for wahine and Māori. Hei Āhuru Mōwai would like to view the evidence that this addition is necessary and will create added benefit for Māori.

#### Inequities in cervical cancer survival for Māori

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<sup>1</sup> Bilingual kiwaha specifically developed for the HPV self test campaign

Overall, Māori with cervical cancer have poorer survival than non-Māori with cervical cancer. A recent study showed that Māori women with cervical cancer are around 1.4 times more likely to die in five years compared to non-Māori women.<sup>i</sup> However, nearly all of this difference in survival can be explained by differences between Māori and non-Māori in how far the disease has spread at diagnosis.<sup>ii</sup> Māori women are more than twice as likely to have their cancers diagnosed at a late stage compared to non-Māori women.<sup>iii</sup> It is important to note that there is currently no evidence that Māori and non-Māori of the same cervical cancer stage (e.g. both Stage 3) will have different survival prospects.

**Citation:** Hei Āhuru Mōwai Māori Cancer Leadership Aotearoa (2021). Updated Position Statement on Cervical Cancer Screening and HPV self-test implementation. Wellington. New Zealand. [www.heiahurumowai.org.nz](http://www.heiahurumowai.org.nz)

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**Disclaimer:** Individual views may vary. This position statement has been endorsed by Hei Āhuru Mōwai Māori Cancer Leadership Aotearoa.

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<sup>i</sup> Gurney, J., Stanley, J., McLeod, M., Koea, J., Jackson, C., & Sarfati, D. (2020). Disparities in Cancer-Specific Survival Between Māori and Non-Māori New Zealanders, 2007-2016. *JCO Global Oncology*, 6, 766-774. doi:10.1200/go.20.00028

<sup>ii</sup> Gurney, J., Stanley, J., McLeod, M., Koea, J., Jackson, C., & Sarfati, D. (2020). Disparities in Cancer-Specific Survival Between Māori and Non-Māori New Zealanders, 2007-2016. *JCO Global Oncology*, 6, 766-774. doi:10.1200/go.20.00028

<sup>iii</sup> McLeod, M., Harris, R., Purdie, G., Cormack, D., Robson, B., Sykes, P., . . . Walker, N. (2010). Improving survival disparities in cervical cancer between maori and non-Māori women in New Zealand: A national retrospective cohort study. *Aust N Z J Public Health*, 34(2), 193-199. doi:10.1111/j.1753-6405.2010.00506.x