

Memo

To: AML Reference Laboratory Clients, Physicians and Nursing Staff
From: Allina Medical Laboratories, Reference Laboratory Services, Cytology Department
Jack Shelton, M.D., Cytopathologist
Carol J. Larson, M.D., Lead Cytopathologist
Date: March 15, 2007
Re: Reporting of HPV Results

The reporting of the ThinPrep® Pap test with HPV testing will undergo a significant change in the coming weeks. At the present time, reports for Pap tests with HPV (reflex or otherwise) are held until HPV testing is complete and the results are available for inclusion into the report. Clinics and health care providers have told us that incorporation of HPV results into the Pap test report, while beneficial, is of secondary importance when compared to turnaround times. In addition, providers often receive HPV results before the Pap report, leading to an incomplete clinical impression which can cause confusion when planning patient management.

Therefore, for Pap tests collected on or after April 2, 2007, the Pap test interpretation will be reported immediately following screening of the slide, and the HPV results (when ordered as a reflex test or concurrently with the Pap test using the ThinPrep® vial) will be reported independently when they become available. HPV results will no longer appear in the cytologic report.

In addition, if you wish to collect a specimen for HPV testing **only** (no pap collected) be sure to use the Digene® collection vial (see the AML Collection Manual or contact your Account Representative for instructions/supplies) not the ThinPrep® vial.

On another note, the Cytology laboratory has recently seen an increase in the number of vials being submitted with a cytobrush or broom left in the vial. The presence of the cytobrush or broom can easily damage our ThinPrep® processor. Please make sure to vigorously work the cytobrush or broom against the ThinPrep® vial walls to dislodge cellular material, then discard the cytobrush or broom.

Please direct any questions regarding this issue to the cytology laboratory, 612-863-4668.

Jack Shelton, MD
Cytopathologist