

5. SCREENING RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. No management recommendation

5.1.1. Number and proportion of cytology reports containing no management recommendation, by 5-year age group

Definition This measure reports the number and proportion of screened women whose first cytology report contained no management recommendation.

Period 1 January 1998 - 31 December 1998

National standards state that management recommendations on Pap test reports be consistent with NHMRC management protocols for screen-detected abnormalities. These standards came into force in July 1999. Recommendations have not traditionally been included on all Pap test reports in NSW, but encouraging compliance with national requirements means that laboratories should adopt this practice as widely as possible.

During the reporting period, 39.8% of women aged 20-69 years had first cytology reports that contained no management recommendation. Among women aged 20 - 49 years, the percentage of screened women whose first cytology report contained no management recommendation was 39.7%, and 40.1% for women 50 - 69 years of age. The proportion of women whose first cytology reports contained no management recommendation was highest among women in the 40 - 44 and 50 - 54 year age groups (40.9%), and lowest for women aged 20 - 24 years (37.9%). (Table 5.1)

Table 5.1: Number and proportion of women in NSW whose first cytology report contained no management recommendation (1 Jan 98- 31 Dec 98)

Age group (years)	Number of women	Number of reports with no management
20 - 24	60,589	22,965 (37.9)
25 -29	90,299	35,081 (38.8)
30 - 34	91,511	36,192 (39.5)
35 - 39	92,752	36,912 (39.8)
40 - 44	78,929	32,308 (40.9)
45 - 49	66,368	27,053 (40.8)
50 - 54	52,259	21,357 (40.9)
55 - 59	34,372	13,759 (40.0)
60 - 64	25,089	9,899 (39.5)
65 - 69	17,865	7,005 (39.2)
20 - 49	480,448	190,511(39.7)
50 - 69	129,585	520,20 (40.1)
20 - 69	610,033	242,531 (39.8)

5.1.2 Number and proportion of women with no management recommendation by NSW Area Health Service

In the 20 - 69 year age group, the proportion of screened women whose first cytology report did not contain any management recommendation was highest in the Northern Rivers Area Health Service (87.2%) and lowest in the Mid Western Area health Service (10.5%). The proportion of reports with no management recommendation varied significantly between Area Health Services (p -value < 0.001).

In the 20 - 49 year age group, the proportion of screened women whose first cytology report contained no management recommendation was highest in the Northern Rivers Area Health Service (87.6%) and lowest in the Mid Western Area Health Service (10.0%).

Similarly in the 50 - 69 year age group, the proportion of women whose first cytology report contained no management recommendation was highest in the Northern Rivers Area Health Service (86.0%) and lowest in the Far West Area Health Service (9.6%).

Overall, 39.7% women did not have any management recommendation in their first cytology report in the 20 - 49 year age group compared to 40.1% in the 50 - 69 year age group. This difference was statistically significant (p -value < 0.001).

Area Health Service variations in proportions of screened women without a management recommendation on the first cytology report should be treated with caution as there is not necessarily concordance between laboratory location and the residential area of the women.

Table 5.2: Number and proportion of women with no management recommendation by Area Health Service and age group for the reporting period of 1 January 1998 - 31 December 1998

Area Health Service	Age 20 - 49 years		Age 50 - 69 years		Age 20 - 69 years	
	Number of women screened	Report with no recommendation (%)	Number of women screened	Report with no recommendation (%)	Number of women screened	Report with no recommendation (%)
Central Coast	20,547	7,532 (36.7)	5,906	2,144 (36.3)	26,453	9,676 (36.6)
Central Sydney	39,281	19,682 (50.1)	9,252	4,775 (51.6)	48,533	24,457 (50.4)
Far West	2,490	281 (11.3)	768	74 (9.6)	3,558	355 (10.9)
Greater Murray	16,621	4,005 (24.1)	4,495	1,130 (25.1)	21,116	5,135 (24.3)
Hunter	38,062	5,690 (14.9)	9,847	1,476 (15.0)	47,909	7,166 (15.0)
Illawarra	23,921	9,218 (38.5)	6,759	2,672 (39.5)	30,680	11,890 (38.8)
Macquarie	6,746	933 (13.8)	2,028	295 (14.5)	8,774	1,228 (14.0)
Mid North Coast	15,993	5,065 (31.7)	5,845	1,810 (31.0)	21,838	6,875 (31.5)
Mid Western	11,656	1,169 (10.0)	3,336	410 (12.3)	14,992	1,579 (10.5)
New England	12,508	7,770 (62.1)	3,854	2,319 (60.2)	16,362	10,089 (61.7)
Northern Rivers	16,419	14,380 (87.6)	5,029	4,323 (86.0)	21,448	18,703 (87.2)
Northern Sydney	67,329	35,044 (52.0)	20,987	11,267 (53.7)	88,316	46,311 (52.4)
South Eastern Sydney	66,163	32,220 (48.7)	17,128	8,364 (48.8)	83,291	40,584 (48.7)
South Western Sydney	54,989	18,700 (34.0)	12,199	3,853 (31.6)	67,188	22,553 (33.6)
Southern	10,402	3,105 (29.9)	3,484	1,068 (30.7)	13,886	4,173 (30.1)
Wentworth	22,464	4,214 (18.8)	4,967	830 (16.7)	27,431	5,077 (18.4)
Western Sydney	45,543	18,627 (40.9)	11,702	4,616 (39.4)	57,245	23,243 (40.6)
AHS not available	9,314	2,876 (30.9)	1,999	594 (39.8)	11,313	3,470 (30.7)
NSW total	480,448	190,511 (39.7)	129,585	52,020 (40.1)	610,033	242,531 (39.8)

5.1.3 Number and proportion of women with no management recommendation by laboratory location.

Within Sydney laboratories 39.2% of women had no management recommendation in their first cytology report, compared to 8.6% from laboratories outside Sydney. This was statistically significantly different (p -value < 0.001).

In laboratories outside NSW, 69.4% screened women had no management recommendation in their first cytology report.

Table 5.3 Number and proportion of women with no management recommendation by laboratory location in NSW (1 January 1998 - 31 December 1998)

Laboratory location	Number of laboratories	Number of women screened	Report with no management recommendation (%)
Total within Sydney	31	535,446	209,700 (39.2)
Total outside Sydney	9	31,118	2,664 (8.6)
Total NSW	40	566,564	212,364 (37.5)
Outside NSW	6	43,469	30,167 (69.4)
Total Laboratories	46	610,033	242,531 (39.8)

5.2. Recommendation for colposcopy or specialist opinion

5.2.1 Recommendation for colposcopy or specialist opinion by 5-year age group

Definition This measure reports the number and proportion of screened women whose first cytology report for the reporting period recommends colposcopy or a referral to a gynaecologist for specialist opinion.

Period 1 January 1998 - 31 December 1998.

The first cytology report of 14,665 screened women aged 20 - 69 years in NSW contained a management recommendation for colposcopy or specialist opinion. This represented 4.0% of all women whose first cytology report included any management recommendation. (Table 5.4)

Recommendations for colposcopy or specialist opinion were included in the first cytology report of 4.2% of screened women aged 20 - 49 years, while the corresponding proportion was 3.5% for women aged 50 - 69 years. The proportion of women with cytology report management recommendations whose first report recommended colposcopy or specialist opinion was highest among women aged 20 - 24 years (7.1%), and declined with age until 45 - 49 years, after which it remained constant at around 3.5%. There was a significant trend with increasing age of a decreasing proportion of women with a management recommendation for colposcopy or specialist opinion in their first cytology report. (p -value <0.001). (Table 5.4)

Table 5.4 Number and proportion of women whose first cytology report contains recommendation for colposcopy or a referral to a gynaecologist for specialist opinion in NSW for the reporting period, by age group (1 January - 31 December 1998)

Age group (years)	Number of women screened	Number of women with recommendation for colposcopy / specialist opinion (%)
20 - 24	37,023	2,637 (7.1)
25 - 29	54,313	3,008 (5.5)
30 - 34	54,495	2,167 (4.0)
35 - 39	55,147	1,801 (3.3)
40 - 44	46,143	1,263 (2.7)
45 - 49	38,931	1,107 (2.8)
50 - 54	30,682	1,010 (3.3)
55 - 59	20,429	731 (3.6)
60 - 64	15,013	542 (3.6)
65 - 69	10,737	399 (3.7)
20 - 49	286,052	11,983 (4.2)
50 - 69	76,861	2,682 (3.5)
20 - 69	362,913	14,665 (4.0)

5.2.2 Cytology reports containing a recommendation for colposcopy or specialist opinion by Area Health Service and age group

In the 20 - 69 year age group, the proportion of reports containing management recommendation for colposcopy or specialist opinion was significantly higher in the Northern Rivers Area Health Service (9.2%) compared to the NSW rate (4.0%). For all other Area Health Services the proportion of reports containing recommendation for colposcopy or specialist opinion ranged between 2.7% and 5.9% in the 20 - 69 year age group. Similar patterns were observed in the 20 - 49 year and 50 - 69 year age groups. (Table 5.5)

The proportion of women with a management recommendation for colposcopy / specialist opinion was significantly different between the 20-49 year (3.5%) and 50-69 year (2.9%) age groups. (p -value <0.001). (Table 5.5)

Area Health Service variations in proportions of screened women with a management recommendation for colposcopy or specialist opinion on the first cytology report should be treated with caution as there is not necessarily concordance between laboratory location and the residential area of the women.

Table 5.5: Number and proportion of women with management recommendation for colposcopy or specialist opinion, by NSW Area Health Service and age group (1 January - 31 December 1998)

Area Health Service	Age 20 - 49 years		Age 50 - 69 years		Age 20 - 69 years	
	Number of women screened	With recommendation for colposcopy or specialist opinion (%)	Number of women screened	With recommendation for colposcopy or specialist opinion (%)	Number of women screened	With recommendation for colposcopy or specialist opinion (%)
Central Coast	12,817	798 (6.2)	3,712	174 (4.7)	16,529	963 (5.8)
Central Sydney	19,299	976 (5.1)	4,407	174 (3.9)	23,706	1150 (4.9)
Far West	2,185	84 (3.8)	688	7 (1.0)	2,873	91 (3.2)
Greater Murray	12,492	448 (3.6)	3,334	82 (2.5)	15,826	530 (3.3)
Hunter	31,984	1,305 (4.1)	8,285	419 (5.1)	40,269	1,724 (4.3)
Illawarra	14,636	620 (4.2)	4,095	124 (3.0)	18,731	744 (4.0)
Macquarie	5,713	238 (4.2)	1,718	42 (2.4)	7,431	280 (3.7)
Mid North Coast	10,816	324 (3.0)	4,002	142 (3.5)	14,818	466 (3.1)
Mid Western	10,357	298 (2.9)	2,892	103 (3.6)	13,249	401 (3.0)
New England	4,663	323 (6.9)	526	41 (2.7)	6,189	364 (5.9)
Northern Rivers	2,057	200 (9.7)	701	54 (7.7)	2,758	254 (9.2)
Northern Sydney	31,702	1,490 (4.7)	9,609	264 (2.7)	41,311	1754 (4.2)
South Eastern Sydney	33,333	1,709 (5.1)	8,698	368 (4.2)	42,031	2077 (4.9)
South Western Sydney	35,884	1,142 (3.2)	8,298	215 (2.6)	44,182	1357 (3.1)
Southern	7,195	187 (2.6)	2,371	69 (2.9)	9,566	256 (2.7)
Wentworth	18,092	563 (3.1)	4,110	193 (4.7)	22,202	693 (3.1)
Western Sydney	26,435	1,065 (4.0)	7,033	234 (3.3)	33,468	1299 (3.9)
AHS not available	6,392	222 (3.5)	1,382	40 (2.9)	7,774	262 (3.4)
NSW total	286,052	11,983 (4.2)	76,861	2,682 (3.5)	36,2913	14,665 (4.0)