



An Affiliate of Methodist Health System

**THE PATHOLOGY CENTER**

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# Bulletin Technical

## Cytology Updates

9-15-04

In order to provide patients with the best care possible, Methodist Hospital is instituting several changes in our gynecologic cytology services.

We will be changing ASCUS recommendations on thin-layer pap smears to bring them in line with ACOG's current recommendations for management of this diagnosis. The new recommendations will recommend triaging based on the results of HPV testing:

- Colposcopy will be recommended for patients who test HPV positive or
- Return to routine 12-month screening for low-risk patients who test HPV negative.

This change will go into effect on September 20,2004.

Data from clinical trials has shown that low-risk HPV testing is of no significant utility in the triage and management of cervicovaginal pathology. Therefore, in the near future we will change our reflex HPV testing to include high-risk HPV only. Watch for a technical bulletin with the effective date of change.

Our follow-up letters to clinicians are now being generated by Cerner, and have a new look. The most important change to these letters is that more than one patient may be listed on a single letter. The cytopathology laboratory will continue to include a separate reply postcard for each patient mentioned on the letter.

Finally, we would like to remind our providers that the Pap test is a screening test for cervical cancer with an inherent false negative rate. Pap smear results should be correlated with the clinical examination findings for optimum patient care.

If you have any questions or concerns about these changes, you may call me at 354-4540.

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