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| **Focus Group**  **Information Sheet** |  |

**Research into how acceptable HPV self-testing for cervical screening is for Māori women.**

**What is this research all about?**

A new test for cervical screening is now possible. This test allows women to use a swab to self-test for human papilloma virus (HPV). Testing for HPV by self-testing is as good as the usual way of cervical screening, where a nurse or doctor does the test (sometimes called a *smear* or *pap* test). Waitemata and Auckland District Health Boards (DHBs) are working with local general practices and Te Whānau o Waipareira to do this research to see whether self-testing might work for Māori women first. This research will help the Ministry of Health decide how women might be offered an HPV test in the future.

**What do the focus groups involve?**

We would like to invite Māori women in West Auckland to take part in a series of focus groups to help us develop the education and information materials required for the self-testing research. We want the materials to explain the study in the best possible way for Māori women and therefore invite your feedback.

The focus groups involve approximately one and a half hours of your time:

**Focus group process**

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| Karakia/welcome | Explanation of the HPV self-testing research and the focus group process. |
| Consent to the focus group | Go through this information sheet with the research team and answer any questions. We will ask for your verbal consent to participate in the focus group. |
| Looking at the self-test research study information | The research team will show you the information we plan to give to women for the self-testing study and will ask you some questions on this information. |
| Looking at the self-test kit | The research team will show you the self-test kit and the instructions and ask you some questions on these. |
| Offer of cervical screening  OPTIONAL  Offer of cervical screening  OPTIONAL  (Continued) | At the focus group  You can choose:   1. To do a self-test at the focus group 2. To do a usual cervical screening test (also called a *smear* or *pap* test) at the focus group with one of the research nurses 3. To do either a self-test or have a cervical screen at a future date with the research nurse or your usual nurse or GP 4. Have no cervical screening test done   There will be private rooms or bathrooms available at the focus groups for this purpose.  This is completely voluntary (your choice) and you do not have to have any testing done at the focus group.  Any of these options is OK and will not affect your care in any way. You can still to be part of the focus group and not do any kind of tests. |
| Kai |  |
| Questionnaire | The research team will ask you to do a questionnaire. This is the same questionnaire that will be part of the self-test research and we hope to find out if Māori women find the test acceptable, and how they might prefer to be tested in the future.  You can complete the questionnaire even if you have not done any test. |
| Come back to focus group hui | For further discussion and feedback |
| Karakia / koha | We appreciate the time taken to participate in the focus groups. Women are offered a $50 voucher for their time and sharing their experience. |

**Benefits and risks**

There may not be any benefits to you from being involved in the focus group, although the research team hope to improve the information given to women as part of self-testing research as a result. You may benefit from choosing to be screened at the focus group or afterwards, but this is completely your choice. The questions discussed in the focus group should not cause you any distress, however the research team/nurses are available to discuss any issues raised in the group and answer any questions you may have.

**Privacy and confidentiality**

The information from the focus groups will be audio recorded and transcribed (copied from the tape onto paper), and the researchers may also take some notes. All information collected as part of this focus group research will be confidential to the research team. The information may be kept for ten years. You will be given a code so that your name will not be used in any reports, and no one will be able to identify you.

**Optional re-contact**

We would like to ask permission to contact some women after the focus group to ask further questions about their experience. This is completely optional, and it is OK if you do not wish to be contacted again.

**Withdrawal**

Being part of this focus group research is your choice. You may choose not to take part, or to withdraw from the study at any time. You can choose not to answer any questions and can ask to have the recorded turned off. If you withdraw we will not be able to withdraw your information because it will be included as part of a group discussion.

**Further information**

We would like to thank you for your consideration of this focus group research project.

If you have any further questions the contact details for the lead researcher is:

Dr Karen Bartholomew

Public Health Physician, Waitemata DHB and Auckland DHB

Phone: 09 486 8920 ext 5434, Mobile: 021 211 5629

Email: [Karen.Bartholomew@waitematadhb.govt.nz](mailto:Karen.Bartholomew@waitematadhb.govt.nz)

If you have any questions or complaints about the study you may contact:

The Waitemata DHB and Auckland DHB Māori Research Committee or Māori Research Advisor Phone: 09 486 8920 ext 3204.