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Dear Ontario Laboratory Stakeholders:

The Ministry of Health (the "ministry") is committed to modernizing the health care system and one of the ways we are doing this is by implementing the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) test for cervical cancer screening. The HPV test more accurately identifies women who are at risk for cervical cancer and need to be referred to a colposcopist. Cancer Care Ontario (CCO), in collaboration with the ministry, has been developing the plan for implementing HPV testing within the Ontario Cervical Screening Program (OCSP). In time, CCO's work will be taken on by Ontario Health, a single agency that will oversee health care delivery in the province and improve clinical guidance and support providers to ensure better quality care for patients.

The OCSP is a province-wide screening program operated by CCO that provides women with access to comprehensive, coordinated, high-quality cervical screening. The program's goal is to reduce the risk of developing or dying from cervical cancer by increasing the percentage of women who are regularly screened and who have timely and appropriate follow-up of abnormal results.

In planning for the implementation of HPV testing within the OCSP, CCO has developed quality requirements for laboratories conducting HPV testing, as well as a list of data elements CCO intends to collect from participating laboratories. The requirements and data elements are necessary to support key business functions required for the organized provincial cervical screening program (e.g. letters to the public, reporting, evaluation).

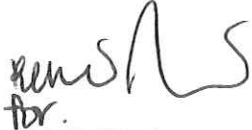
Prior to finalizing requirements, CCO would like to solicit feedback from the Ontario laboratory community on the feasibility of implementing the proposed OCSP laboratory requirements and submitting the proposed data elements to CCO. To achieve this, CCO on behalf of the ministry will release a Request for Information ("RFI"). In addition to informing the final laboratory requirements and data elements, the RFI will support planning and timeline development for HPV testing implementation.

Ontario Laboratory Stakeholders

On August 13, 2019, the RFI will be posted on Jaggaer, the electronic tendering system used by the Province of Ontario. For further information about Jaggaer, please call 1-866-722-7390 or visit the website at <https://ontariotenders.app.jaggaer.com>.

Laboratory stakeholders will have an opportunity to review the RFI and provide feedback on the proposed OCSP laboratory requirements and list of data elements. CCO thanks the laboratory community for your participation and we look forward to receiving your feedback.

Sincerely,



Kristin Taylor
Acting Director
Provincial Programs Branch



Neeta Sarta
Acting Director
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