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Diagnostic Services Manitoba (DSM) is the not-for-profit corporation responsible for all of Manitoba's public laboratory services and rural diagnostic imaging services. More than 1,600 dedicated laboratory, imaging and support staff provide services at over 70 sites located across the province that are unified with a shared vision of delivering quality, patient-centred care.

DSM provides the *Results that Matter* to patients and their physicians every day. These results are used to diagnose and determine the right treatment plan for Manitobans. DSM laboratories perform more than 14.5 million tests annually.

Liquid Based Cytology

How LBC works in gynecology testing: Liquid based cytology is a way of preparing cervical samples for microscopic examination. Samples are collected in a similar way to the traditional Pap smear, but LBC employs a special device that brushes cells from the neck of the cervix. During the exam, the patient will not experience any difference between the two collection methods. The head of this device is then broken off into a vial containing preservative fluid and sent to a laboratory. At the laboratory, the vial is spun and treated so any obscuring material such as mucous is removed from the cells requiring examination. A sample of those cells is then placed on a slide, which is then examined under a microscope by a cytologist.

Benefits to Patients: Conventional Pap tests have significantly lowered the death rate from cervical cancer. However, at times this method does not always produce a sample that is sufficient for examination, resulting in a high rate of re-sampling. Since LBC improves the collection of cells, there are fewer instances where re-sampling is necessary and results are then available more quickly to the physician and patient. In addition, LBC provides enhanced detection of high grade lesions increasing the overall rate of detection and best treatment options.

Since introducing LBC methods along with Dynacare and Unicity Laboratories one year ago, the rate of unsatisfactory specimens that require a second collection has been reduced from approximately 6% to 1%. To date over 98% of clinicians have converted to LBC methods for gynecological testing in Manitoba.

DSM expanded LBC testing for screening of certain non-gynecological cancers in March 2015. This method provides the same benefits of improved quality of specimen preparation and an enhanced microscopic view making it easier for cytopathologists to detect precancerous changes, malignancies and infectious diseases.

DSM Key Partner in Manitoba's Cancer Patient Journey Initiative

The diagnostic testing that DSM provides is integral to cancer patients' journeys from suspicion of cancer to first treatment, making DSM a key partner in Manitoba's Cancer Patient Journey (CPJ) initiative. The testing and analysis that we provide assists physicians to determine the best course of treatment for their patients. Our goal is to provide quality results and reduce test result turnaround times by implementing new and innovative ways to advance testing options for Manitobans in partnership with our key stakeholders. Improving cervical cancer screening is just one of DSM's CPJ initiatives.



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Diagnostic Services Manitoba's vision is to create a patient-first environment that provides quality laboratory and diagnostic imaging services supporting the health care needs of all Manitobans.

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