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Dear Health Care Partner,

Diagnostic Services Manitoba (DSM) is excited to announce that we will be introducing Liquid-Based Cytology (LBC) this fall with funding support from Manitoba Health for gynecological and non-gynecological cytology. We will implement the SurePath technology for gyne specimen collection in October and ThinPrep technology later this year for non-gyne specimens. SurePath processing offers significant advancements in cervical cancer screening through improved collection methodology, leading to better and earlier detection of abnormalities. For the Women's Health program, this will ultimately have a positive impact on their cervical cancer outcomes. As such, the introduction of LBC technology is another step toward achieving the goals of Manitoba's *In Sixty: Cancer Patient Journey* initiative.

***How does LBC Technology improve testing and Patient outcomes?***

DSM has selected the BD SurePath Test technology for its user-friendly "Collect/Drop/Send" technique, making it easy for health care practitioners. The main advantage of this technology is that 100% of the cells collected by practitioners will arrive at the laboratory for analysis, which is significantly better than traditional PAP smears. The SurePath technique involves a cell enrichment process and two centrifugation steps, which removes mucus and inflammatory cells, improving the clarity of slides and thus improved diagnoses. Alongside the LBC technology, DSM is introducing FocalPoint, an imaging technology that aids in diagnostic interpretation.

***What does LBC mean for Health Care Practitioners and how do clinics implement it?***

DSM will be implementing the BD SurePath Test this October:

- Toward the end of September and into the first week of October, we will be sending out information packages explaining how your clinic can order the necessary supplies, as well as specific instructions on sample collection and preparation.
- In addition, our DSM Pathology Team will be personally visiting key clinics across the province to follow-up with supplies and information to ensure providers are comfortable with the conversion to this new technology.
- We will continue to accept conventional PAP smears until March 2015, but would encourage our partners to be early adopters of this technology as it streamlines collection processes and improves the specimen quality for clinical interpretation. Overall, we are confident that you will find the LBC process to be simpler than traditional PAP smear methods.



- From October until December we will continue to offer support to clinics transitioning to the SurePath technology.
- We will be following up in January 2015 to support conversion for clinics that have not yet adopted this technology.
- This technology is fully endorsed by CervixCheck and their report supports these changes.

We look forward to working collaboratively with you to make a positive impact on cervical screening outcomes and women's health in Manitoba. If you have questions prior to receiving our information package, please contact our Technical Director, Lisa Manning, at (204) 926-1416.

Sincerely,

Dr. Amin Kabani  
Chief Medical Officer