

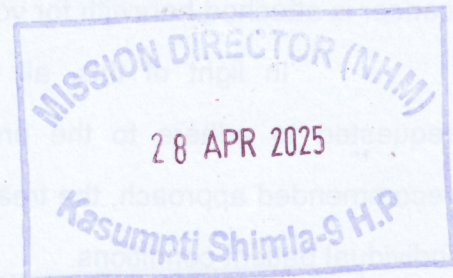


NHMHP-NCD0GEN/7/2019-NCD-720
National Health Mission
Himachal Pradesh



To

1. All the Chief Medical Officer,
Himachal Pradesh
2. All the Principals,
Government Medical Colleges
Himachal Pradesh



Subject: Protocol for screening of Cervical Cancer-reg.
Madam/ Sir,

As you are aware, cancer remains one of the leading causes of death worldwide and continues to pose a significant public health challenge in India. The burden of cancer is rising steadily, with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) estimating over 14 lakh new cases in 2023 alone. Projections indicate that cancer incidence in India will increase from 1.46 million in 2022 to 1.57 million by 2025.

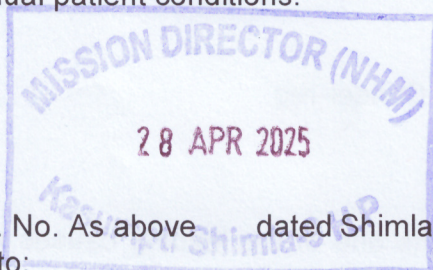
In Himachal Pradesh, according to NFHS-V data, approximately 29 women and 74 men per 100,000 population are reported to have cancer. The Global Cancer Observatory (2022) identifies cervical cancer as the second most common cancer among women in India.

Currently, cervical cancer screening in the State is being conducted in medical colleges and through special screening campaigns. Screening is often performed using Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid (VIA) or/and Pap smear examination. It is important to note that both VIA and Pap smear are screening methods and not diagnostic tools.

According to the national guidelines, VIA is the preferred method for community-based screening of cervical cancer for women above 30 years of age. All VIA-positive cases should subsequently undergo further evaluation through

biopsy. This protocol has also been affirmed by the HoD, Department of Gynaecology, Medical College Nahan, during recent cervical cancer screening campaigns. The national protocol for screening and management of cervical cancer is attached herewith for your reference.

In light of this, all concerned institutions and healthcare staff are requested to adhere to the protocol of screening via VIA. While this is the recommended approach, the treating physicians may exercise discretion based on individual patient conditions.



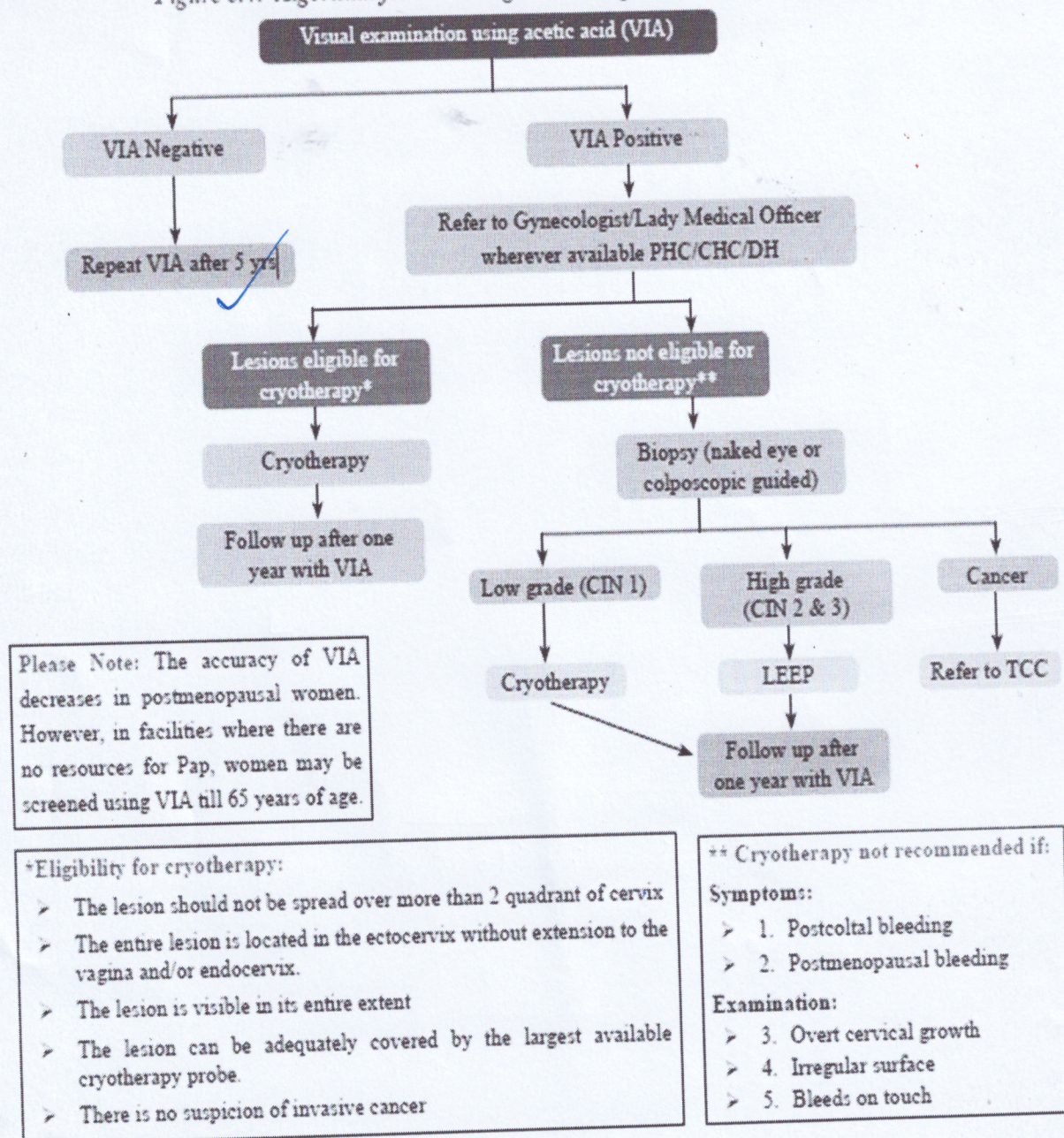
Mission Director
National Health Mission

Endst. No. As above dated Shimla-9. The
Copy to:

1. The Secretary (Health) GoHP, Shimla-9 for information, please.
2. The Director Health Services, Shimla-9 for information.
3. The Director Medical Education and Research, Shimla-9 for information.
4. All the HoD's Gynecologist and Pathologist, Medical Colleges, H.P. for information.

Mission Director
National Health Mission

Figure 5.4: Algorithm for Screening and management of Cervical Cancer



Please Note:

MO to have a list of nearest facility there equipped for confirmation and management of Ca Cervix. He should refer directly the suspected cancer cases to these centres only.