



## SELECTION OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

The correct Pap smear technique with presence of endocervical cells is important in early detection of cervical dyskaryosis. It is less than optimal if endocervical cells are absent. Achievements of RCBM MCHC for absent endocervical cells varied between 2.5%-4.5% since 2017 to 2020. Nevertheless, there was a drastic increase up to 31.0% in 2021. This increase might lead to the low detection of cervical abnormalities.

## KEY MEASURES FOR IMPROVEMENT

The key indicator was percentage of absent endocervical cells from total numbers of Pap smear done. A standard of less than 20% for absent endocervical cells was used.

## PROCESS OF GATHERING INFORMATION

A quasi-experimental study was conducted using universal sampling from February-June 2022. The nurses were assessed using self-administered questionnaires to identify the contributing factors, followed by planned interventions and questionnaires post-interventions. 164 samples of Pap smear were taken among 30 to 65-year-old patients from 1st March-31st May 2022.

## ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Percentage of absent endocervical cells in 2021 was 31.0%. The contributing factors included cytobrush not inserted  $\frac{1}{4}$  or more (100%), insufficient cervical sampler broom rotation (50%), swab C&S not done when discharge was present (50%), usage of lubrication during procedure (37.5%), failure of fixation using alcohol 95% (25%), failure of slide fixation for 30 minutes (25%) and not knowing that sample need to be sent to laboratory within 48 hours after drying (25%).

## STRATEGIES FOR CHANGE

Lectures and a practical session to increase the nurses` knowledge on Pap smear collection were done, based on Model of Good Care and Pap smear flow chart. Logbooks for nurses to fill up were also implemented.



Lecture on Pap smear collection



A practical session for the nurses

## EFFECT OF CHANGE

We successfully reduced the percentage from 31.0% to 2.4% (March-May 2022). There were also marked improvements for all the identified factors.

## THE NEXT STEP

The usage of Model of Good Care was adopted for other subsequent Pap smears in the clinic. The improvement would be shared with the other MCHC in Sarawak.

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