

CADTH Reference List

# Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Recommendations for Transgender or Non- Binary Individuals

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## Key Message

- No evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding screening for cervical or breast cancer in transgender or non-binary individuals.

## Research Question

What are the evidence-based guidelines regarding screening for cervical or breast cancer in transgender or non-binary individuals?

## Methods

### Literature Search Methods

A limited literature search was conducted by an information specialist on key resources including MEDLINE, Embase, the Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effectiveness (DARE), Health Technology Assessments (HTA), the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, the websites of Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused internet search. The search strategy consisted of both controlled vocabulary, such as the National Library of Medicine's MeSH (Medical Subject Headings), and keywords. The main search concepts were breast or cervical cancer and transgender or non-binary people. Search filters were applied to exclude conference abstracts in Embase and to retrieve only guidelines. No date limits were applied to the search. Internet links were provided, where available.

### Selection Criteria and Summary Methods

One reviewer screened the literature search results (titles and abstracts) and selected publications according to the inclusion criteria presented in Table 1. Full texts of study publications were not reviewed. The Overall Summary of Findings was based on information available in the abstracts of selected publications. Open-access, full-text versions of evidence-based guidelines were reviewed when abstracts were not available, and relevant recommendations were summarized.

## Results

No evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding screening for cervical or breast cancer in transgender or non-binary individuals.

References of potential interest that did not meet the inclusion criteria are provided in Appendix 1.

**Table 1: Selection Criteria**

Criteria	Description
Population	Transgender or non-binary individuals
Intervention	Breast cancer screening (i.e., mammography), cervical cancer screening (i.e., Pap smear or testing, vault smear or testing, HPV testing and triage)
Comparator	Not applicable
Outcomes	Recommendations from Canadian and international sources regarding breast cancer screening or cervical cancer screening for transgender individuals at any stage in transition (e.g., any hormonal medication usage, completed surgical procedures, or other related treatments) or non-binary individuals, including appropriate testing, testing intervals, and special characteristics for screening
Study designs	Evidence-based guidelines

HPV = human papillomavirus.

## Overall Summary of Findings

No evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding screening for cervical or breast cancer in transgender or non-binary individuals; therefore, no summary can be provided.

## Appendix 1: References of Potential Interest

### Previous CADTH Reports

1. Screening and diagnostic services for people at risk of breast cancer: a rapid qualitative review. (*CADTH Rapid response report: summary with critical appraisal*). Ottawa (ON): CADTH; 2019: <https://cadth.ca/screening-and-diagnostic-services-people-risk-breast-cancer-rapid-qualitative-review-0> Accessed 2021 Mar 4.

### Systematic Reviews

2. Sterling J, Garcia MM. Cancer screening in the transgender population: a review of current guidelines, best practices, and a proposed care model. *Transl Androl Urol*. 2020 Dec;9(6):2771-2785. [Medline](#)
3. Meggetto O, Peirson L, Yakubu M, et al. Breast cancer risk and breast screening for trans people: an integration of 3 systematic reviews. *CMAJ Open*. 2019 Jul-Sep;7(3):E598-E609. [Medline](#)

### Guidelines and Recommendations

#### Expert Consensus

4. Cancer Care Ontario. Overarching policy for the screening of trans people in the Ontario breast screening program and the Ontario cervical screening program. 2019. <https://www.cancercareontario.ca/en/guidelines-advice/types-of-cancer/61546> Accessed 2021 Mar 4.  
See: Screening eligibility, modality and interval for trans men in the OBSP and OCSP, p. 9-11; Screening eligibility, modality and interval for trans women in the OBSP and the OCSP, p. 11-12; Screening follow-up and recall for trans men in the OBSP and the OCSP, p. 12; Screening follow-up and recall for trans women in OBSP, p. 12-13.

#### Unclear Methodology

5. Guidelines for the primary and gender-affirming care of transgender and gender nonbinary people. San Francisco (CA): Center of Excellence for Transgender Health, University of California San Francisco; 2017: <https://transcare.ucsf.edu/sites/transcare.ucsf.edu/files/Transgender-PGACG-6-17-16.pdf>. Accessed 2021 Mar 4.  
See: 21. Screening for breast cancer in transgender women, p. 104; 24. Screening for cervical cancer in transgender men, p. 111.
6. Potter J, Peitzmeier SM, Bernstein I, et al. Cervical cancer screening for patients on the female-to-male spectrum: a narrative review and guide for clinicians. *J Gen Intern Med*. 2015 01 Dec;30(12):1857-1864. [Medline](#)

### Clinical Practice Guidelines

7. Guidance for health care providers. breast screening for transgender, gender-diverse and non-binary people. Vancouver (BC): BC Cancer; 2020: <http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/screening/Documents/Breast-Screening-Transgender-Patients-Provider-Guide.pdf> Accessed 2021 Mar 4.
8. Cancer Care Manitoba. Cancer screening recommendations for trans women and men. <https://www.cancercare.mb.ca/screening/trans> Accessed 2021 Mar 4.

### Review Articles

9. Roznovjak D, Petroll A, Cortina CS. Breast cancer risk and screening in transgender individuals. *Curr Breast Cancer Rep*. 2021 March;13(1):56-61.
10. Chowdhry DN, O'Connell AM. Breast imaging in transgender patients. *J Breast Imaging*. 2020 01 Mar;2(1):161-167.
11. Grimstad F, Tulimat S, Stowell J. Cancer screening for transgender and gender diverse patients. *Curr Obstet Gynecol Rep*. 2020 01 Sep;9(3):146-152.
12. Patel JM, Dolitsky S, Bachman GA, Buckley de Meritens A. Gynecologic cancer screening in the transgender male population and its current challenges. *Maturitas*. 2019 November;129:40-44. [Medline](#)
13. Kiely D. Transgender patient screening: breast cancer risk assessment and screening recommendations. *Clin J Oncol Nurs*. 2017 Jun 01;21(3):E67-E70. [Medline](#)

### Additional References

14. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. *Health care for transgender and gender diverse individuals*. 2021. <https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/committee-opinion/articles/2021/03/health-care-for-transgender-and-gender-diverse-individuals> Accessed 2021 Mar 4.  
See: Cancer screening.
15. Canadian Cancer Society. Screening in LGBTQ communities <https://www.cancer.ca/en/prevention-and-screening/reduce-cancer-risk/find-cancer-early/screening-in-lgbtq-communities/?region=on> Accessed 2021 Mar 4.

16. Public Health England. NHS population screening: information for transgender people. 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-population-screening-information-for-transgender-people> Accessed 2021 Mar 4.
17. Guidelines for gender-affirming primary care with trans and non-binary patients. 4th ed. Toronto (ON): Sherbourne Health; 2019:<https://www.rainbowhealthontario.ca/product/4th-edition-sherbournes-guidelines-for-gender-affirming-primary-care-with-trans-and-non-binary-patients/> Accessed 2021 Mar 4.  
See: Breast cancer, p. 80; Cervical cancer and Pap tests, p. 80-81.