

CytoBase and Your Right to Privacy

What is CytoBase?

CytoBase is a computerized database of Pap test results and related information. The database is operated and maintained by Inscyte Corporation, which is a not for profit partnership of medical laboratories performing the testing and Cancer Care Ontario – a planning and research organization that advises the Ontario Government on all aspects of cancer care. When you have a Pap test done at a participating laboratory a copy of your test results is stored in CytoBase together with your full name, date of birth, address, and your health insurance number.

Inscyte Corporation is permitted to collect your personal health information under Ontario's Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004. Your personal health information is treated as strictly private and confidential.

How is the information used?

Cervical cancer can be treated if detected early in its progression. Since early detection can often lead to a cure, women are encouraged to have a Pap test performed on a regular basis. To better detect conditions that might develop into cancer, medical laboratories require access to your previous test results, often going back many years. CytoBase is a source of this information. When a laboratory receives your specimen it retrieves all of your previous results from CytoBase and uses this information in determining the test result.

CytoBase also provides your physician with the information he/she needs to ensure you receive timely care and that appropriate follow-up actions are taken in the event of an abnormal test result.

With the appropriate approval, the information in CytoBase is also used for research. The large amount of data is an important resource for investigators to learn more about cervical cancer and how to improve its detection and treatment.

Finally, the information in CytoBase is used to produce annual statistics about cervical cancer in Ontario. These statistics do not contain any personal identifying information and are used by authorized researchers and government agencies to develop plans and strategies for reducing the incidence and mortality of cervical cancer in Ontario.

How is your privacy protected?

Your personal health information and your privacy are protected in accordance with Ontario's Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004. This means that Inscyte Corporation has policies and procedures in place that meet the requirements of the Office of Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario with respect to collecting, storing, using and disclosing your personal health information. You can obtain a copy of Inscyte Corporation's Privacy Code at our website or by contacting our Privacy Officer. The Privacy Code describes in detail the principles, policies, and the security measures that we use to protect your information and right to privacy.

Where can I get more information?

Visit our website at www.inscyte.org for additional information, answers to frequently asked questions, and to read or obtain a copy of our Privacy Code. Alternatively, if you have any questions or concerns, please write to our Privacy Officer:

Jack Golabek
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