

TIKANGA IN CERVICAL SCREENING

Supporting wāhine with mana and care

▼ Whakawhanaungatanga (Connection)	▼ Take time to kōrero and build trust before starting the clinical part.
Manaakitanga (Care & Respect)	Show genuine kindness and care, explain each step clearly, and allow for questions.
Wāhine-to-Wāhine Care	Offer a female clinician or chaperone.
Te Reo Māori & Tikanga in Communication	Ensure to try your absolute best to pronounce names correctly, use te reo greetings, kōrero, and provide info in te reo where possible.
Whānau Support	Welcome whānau or a support person to be present if that makes the patient more comfortable.
Tapu & Noa	Protect privacy and dignity. Acknowledge the tapu of the body and restore balance after the procedure.
Koha / Small Gift	When something tapu is taken (like a sample), acknowledging this with a small koha or gift can help restore balance. It shows respect, reciprocity, and appreciation for the wāhine's contribution to her own hauora and to the wellbeing of her whānau.

This resource is intended as a general guide only. It is based on my 13 years of experience in primary and community nursing, and my perspective as a Māori wahine. I acknowledge that tikanga will differ from wāhine to wāhine, and encourage seeking further guidance where appropriate.