



**Education Module for Anatomic Pathology Registrars
Year 2: Module No 1**

Reporting Cervical Cytology in New Zealand using The Bethesda System (2014)

Updated 2025

Introduction

Understanding *The Bethesda System* is fundamental to reporting cervical cytology.

In the past, a large number of different reporting systems and classifications were used in different countries and places causing considerable confusion, particularly when people or clinicians moved country or locality. A National Cancer Institute (NCI) workshop in Bethesda, Maryland USA in 1988 developed a standardised reporting system which gained widespread recognition internationally. The most recent of three revisions is **The Bethesda System for Reporting Cervical Cytology (2014)**.

In New Zealand, the National Cervical Screening Programme was set up in 1991, just after *The Bethesda System* was first published. Despite being new, New Zealand adopted it with only minor modifications to the published international version and was the first country in the world to do so at a national level. New Zealand currently uses a New Zealand modified version of The Bethesda System (2014).

Study recommendations

1. *The Bethesda Book for Reporting Cervical Cytology* 3rd Edition
(Ed: Ritu Nayar and David Wilbur).

Reading this book is an imperative for registrars and obtaining a personal copy is strongly recommended. The book contains chapters on cytomorphology as well as outlining the reporting system.

For this module, read the forward: **The Bethesda System: A Historical Perspective (Diane Solomon) Pages v-vii**. This is a succinct summary of the context in which TBS was developed and discusses the principles on which it is based. Also read the outline of *The Bethesda System* on Pages xiii – xv.

2. Read the Notes covering The New Zealand-modified Bethesda System 2014
3. Read the Notes covering the differences in cytology reporting systems between New Zealand and Australia