We are pleased to announce the implementation of a new HPV assay at TOPA. In the next few weeks, TOPA will begin performing the Roche Cobas HPV assay, utilizing a fully automated, state-of-the-art nucleic acid amplification instrument.

The advantages of this assay include the following:

1. Fully automated processing for enhanced reliability and reproducibility.
2. Faster turn-around time.
3. Concurrent genotyping for HPV types 16 and 18, on high-risk HPV-positive samples, providing immediate genotyping results at no additional cost to the patient.

Please note that current guidelines recommend incorporation of HPV genotyping results into management strategies, as follows:

- **Cytology-negative, HPV-positive women aged 30-65:**
  Women testing positive for HPV 16/18 should be referred directly to colposcopy. Women testing negative for HPV 16/18 should be co-tested in 12 months.

- **Cytology-ASCUS, HPV-positive women aged 21 and above:**
  Initial management consists of referral to colposcopy regardless of genotyping results. Subsequent management may be influenced by genotyping results, since a positive result for HPV 16/18 is associated with a higher risk for high-grade CIN.

- **These are guidelines only; management decisions should be based on the clinical situation of the individual patient.** (Am J Clin Pathol 2012; 137: 516-54. CA Cancer J Clin 2012; 62: 147-172).

For additional information on HPV testing, or to discuss other aspects of laboratory services, please feel free to call us.