

# Cervical cancer testing – at home!

## **TEBOGO MOKWENA**

CERVICAL cancer kills 10 women every day in South Africa.

Screening for cervical cancer is done through pap smears and now there is a test that can be done at home.

“With the introduction of HPV DNA testing, there’s no need for any woman to develop cervical cancer, let alone die. This cancer has the highest death rate among women,” said Lancet Laboratories’ Dr Chris Maske.

The Udotest allows women to

take their own sample when and where it suits them and to send their results through a pickup and delivery service.

“We always relied on the pap smear as a screening test, but now studies have shown that HPV testing is a much better test for detecting cervical cancer,” said virologist Dr Allison Glass.

The Human papilloma virus (HPV) is a viral infection that causes 99% of cervical cancers. It is spread through bodily fluids, mucous membranes and infected

genital skin.

Glass said: “The lab test done on a Udo HPV test sample is exactly the same as the one done on a sample collected by a doctor, so the results are reliable.”

Test founder Allison Martin said it has been available in the country for almost three years, saving lives daily.

“With confidential delivery and collection, convenience, screening and a 30 second test, what more could we ask for?” she added.