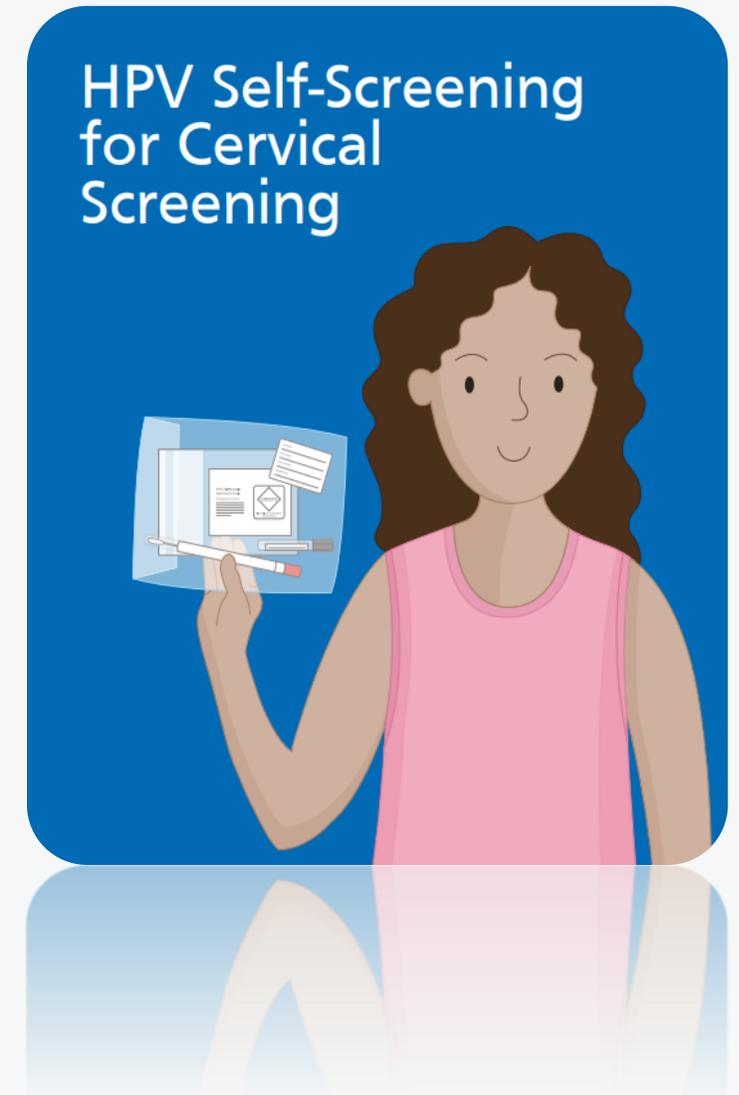


NHS London SelfScreen Opportunistic HPV Self-Sampling: Communications toolkit for primary care Phase 2

March 2026

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What is cervical self-screening?

The cervical self-screening test is offered to women and people with a cervix who have never, or do not regularly, attend cervical screening. Individuals take their own sample from the vagina using a swab (like a long cotton bud) and this is tested for Human Papillomavirus (HPV), which can cause cervical cancer.

Please note: In London, in-clinic HPV cervical self-screening is offered opportunistically in primary care and other cervical screening providers. HPV self-sampling will also be rolled out across **England** in 2026, contacting eligible people directly and offering them the opportunity to complete a self-screening test at home.

Aims

The aim of this communications toolkit is to support participating general practices to:

- **identify and invite eligible patients** to access the London HPV cervical self-screening pathway
- **signpost patients** to communication assets to support patients to make an informed decision, and safely and effectively complete a self-sampling test.



Cervical self-screening inclusion and exclusion criteria

Inclusion criteria for HPV cervical self-screening:

Any woman or person with a cervix at least 6 months overdue screening who is:

- registered with a London GP participating in the pathway
- aged 25.5 years to 64 years or aged 65+ and not screened since age 60; and
- yet to meet the criteria to be ceased from the programme.

Exclusion criteria for HPV cervical self-screening:

- has no cervix
- has had a cervical screening result in the last 3.5 years for those aged 25-49, and 5.5 years in those aged 50-64
- has been told that they need to do cervical screening again earlier than usual (early recall)
- has been told they need a further colposcopy having already had a colposcopy, or that they may need more colposcopies rather than returning to the normal screening pathway (test-of-cure pathway)
- known to be pregnant
- less than three months after giving birth
- new to cervical screening in England (to be eligible for this pathway it must be at least six months since they became eligible for cervical screening in England)
- ceased/suspended.



Identifying and inviting eligible patients

NHS London, in collaboration with the Cervical Screening Management System (CSMS), have developed the following to support practices to identify eligible patients:

- **CSMS 'non-responder' report:** this report contains individuals who have not responded to their most recent cervical screening invitation and are now more than 6 months overdue, or who have been ceased due to age but were non-responders at the time of ceasing and are still under 65 years old and so remain eligible for their final screening test. [Manage notification lists - NHS England Digital](#)
- **EMIS / SystemOne flag / clinical template:** to alert staff of patient's eligibility at point of contact.

Note: clinical templates / flags will be set up automatically for all participating practices

Further details and instructions can be found in the [Professional Guidance](#) for general practices.

Communication assets

NHS London have developed the following communication assets* to enable practices to support their eligible patients to make an informed decision to participate in the pathway, and to safely and effectively take a self-sample:

- **Patient information leaflet**: a plain English guide for women and people with a cervix aged 25 to 64. This can be shared as a link or printed off in practice and given to patients to take home.
- **Patient collection instructions leaflet**: a step-by-step written instruction guide. A hard copy of this guide will be in the grab bags for patients to access.
- **Patient instruction video**: a step-by-step animated instruction video.
- **Patient communications assets poster**: a one pager, with QR codes, that can be printed off and left in clinic rooms to support clinicians to easily signpost patients to the above communications assets electronically via a smartphone/tablet.
- **A3 SelfScreen poster**: an A3 poster that can be displayed in common areas within the practice to raise the profile of the pathway and empower patients to seek further information if interested. Printed copies of this poster will be sent to participating practices via the CSL lab.

Please Note:

All patient facing assets have versions available in the following languages:

- Albanian Tosk
- Arabic
- Bengali
- Chinese Simplified
- Chinese Traditional
- Farsi
- French European
- Gujarati
- Gurmukhi (Punjabi)
- Hindi
- Polish
- Portuguese Brazilian
- Portuguese Iberian
- Romanian
- Somali
- Spanish Iberian
- Spanish Latin American
- Turkish
- Ukrainian
- Urdu Naskh

* All communication assets have alternate language versions available online via the links provided above

HPV cervical self-screening: General messages

- **There are lots of reasons why people may find going for cervical screening uncomfortable or distressing.**
- **NHS England wants to make cervical screening easier** by introducing innovations like **cervical self-screening**, alongside the current cervical screening programme, to help protect more people from cervical cancer – a highly preventable cancer.
- **If you usually come forward for your cervical screening when invited, we recommend that you continue to do so.** A sample taken by a health care professional at your GP surgery or sexual health clinic is still the best way to detect HPV and any cell changes that over time could lead to developing cervical cancer.
- We don't yet have the evidence to show that switching to self-testing from regular clinician-taken sampling is as effective at preventing cervical cancer. **But for those who would otherwise not come forward for screening at all, self-testing is the next best option.**
- In this cervical self-screening pathway, **you may be eligible for self-screening if your GP practice or other cervical screening provider is participating in this initiative, and you are at least 6 months overdue your cervical screening.**
- If you are eligible, you will be offered the opportunity to self-screen when you attend your GP practice or other cervical screening provider. Your GP practice may also reach out to you and invite you.
- If you are eligible, you will always have the choice between self-screening or a speculum screening to be completed by a healthcare professional. You can also request assistance to take the self-screen, if you require it. You can speak to your healthcare professional about your cervical screening options.
- **Cervical self-screening may be an easier option** for people who have never or rarely attended cervical screening. Self-screening aims to remove barriers which can stop people going for screening.

Short URLs for use in messaging

The following shortened URLs help make it easier for services to share patient facing communications assets via SMS / NHS App messaging.

Short URLs to English versions

Communications Asset	Short URL
Patient information leaflet	https://nhs london.short.gy/hpvss/pil
Patient collection instructions leaflet	https://nhs london.short.gy/hpvss/pcil
Patient instruction video	https://nhs london.short.gy/hpvss/video

Short URLs to list of alternative languages

Communications Asset	Short URL
Patient information leaflet	https://nhs london.short.gy/hpvss/pil/langs
Patient collection instructions leaflet	https://nhs london.short.gy/hpvss/pcil/langs
Patient instruction video	https://nhs london.short.gy/hpvss/video/langs

Further information

To find out more about the NHS London HPV cervical self-screening for cervical screening pathway visit:

[NHS England — London » Cervical screening resources](#)



For further information or assistance please contact the NHS London Cervical Self-Screening Team via:
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