

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide information and updates in relation to staff involved in the National Cervical Screening programme across Kent and Medway.

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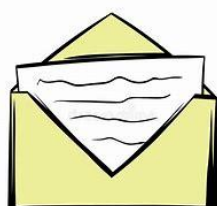
High-Risk HPV Primary Testing

From 1st June the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells laboratory have successfully started to test samples from West Kent using High-Risk HPV (HR-HPV) as the primary screening method. If HR-HPV is detected, cytology is then performed on the sample. This change is part of a mitigation process to help reduce the current backlog in the laboratory and subsequent delays some patients are experiencing in receiving their results.

More information can be found: <https://phescreening.blog.gov.uk/2018/03/01/primary-hpv-testing-update/>

This has not affected samples from women in North, East Kent or Medway and those samples will continue to be processed for cytology first. The full national roll-out to HR-HPV primary testing is expected to be completed by the end of 2019 and we will share more information and training resources when they are available.

Result Letters



Please advise women that they should expect to receive their results letter **within 10 weeks**. The labs cannot disclose information to patients directly, so please do not suggest concerned patients contact the lab, but ask them to contact you if they have not received a result within this time.

Our lab colleagues are working extremely hard to reduce the backlog and we hope the delay in receiving results will start to reduce by the end of the summer.

Extended Hours - an opportunity for cervical screening?

Some practices are looking into using the new extended hours for cervical screening. This seems like a great opportunity for women who struggle to attend during normal working hours.

For merged practices, sample takers will need to be given permission to view other practices Open Exeter patients. This can be authorised by the practice 'Open Exeter Super User'.



Contacting Non-Responders

The practice must make contact with women who do not attend for screening after receiving two national letters from PCSE to fulfil the requirements of QOF. This is an opportunity to contact the women in a more personalised and appropriate way.

A recently published randomised controlled trial by Huf et al (2017)

Suggested Text Message:

It has been found the most effective text message reminder is:

"<GP NAME>: Your cervical

published in the Lancet found that text message reminders improve cervical screening uptake and that behavioural insights can inform the message content that has the biggest impact on participation of screening. Other studies have found the same for breast and bowel screening.
[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(17\)32981-1/fulltext?code=lancet-site](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(17)32981-1/fulltext?code=lancet-site)

smear test is due. To book please call <xxxxxxxxxxxx>”

Multiple Language Leaflets



Public Health England (PHE) produces the cervical screening leaflet in **18 different languages** which can be accessed:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cervical-screening-description-in-brief>

The national call/recall system does not identify women who need information in other languages, so just sends the standard English letter and leaflet. If you have patients who cannot read English, please print off these leaflets and give or send to them.

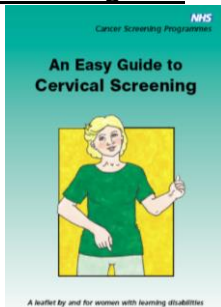
Easy-Read For People With Learning Disability

The latest data from NHS England shows that women with learning disability are up to 40% less likely to be screened than those without.

In addition to discussing screening at the **annual health check**, it would be beneficial to check your **learning disability register** to check if there are any women between 25-64 years who might have missed screening.

There are a variety of resources for women with learning disability including:

Public Health England:



<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cervical-screening-easy-read-guide>

Jo's Trust:

The Smear Test Film



<https://www.jostrust.org.uk/about-cervical-cancer/cervical-screening-smear-test-and-abnormal-cells/women-learning-disabilities>

There are also template letters you could use for invitations. Please get in touch if you would like a copy.

Consider a referral to your local **community learning disability team**, or link nurse for more guidance:

Kent: ☎ 03001234195

✉ kentchft.lidsref@nhs.net

Medway: ☎ 01634 337513

✉ medch.learningdisabilities@nhs.net

Requests From The Labs:

- Please ensure you are providing all the **clinical information** and **full treatment history** available.

The lab requires this information to process the samples. If they have to contact the practice for additional essential information, please respond ASAP to prevent a delay occurring in the sample being processed.

- ICE Electronic Requesting for LBC

Please only use **Open Exeter** request forms for LBC samples. The labs have now ceased accepting electronic requests through ICE. The Open Exeter request form contains vital information for screening such as previous tests and dates which indicate to the staff how to follow up the patient correctly.

Vaginal HRT And Sample Taking

The national team have clarified that there needs to be at least a 3 day interval from the last dose of vaginal HRT being used to a sample being taken. This should prevent any contamination from creams pessaries or gels on the sample. The use of this form of HRT should be noted in the clinical details on the HMR101 sample request form.

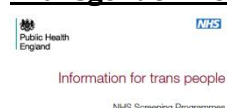
Patients On Immunosuppressant Therapy

The most up-to-date guidance on the management of immunosuppressed women within the cervical screening programme can be found in the guidance document on sample acceptance – appendix 6

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cervical-screening-accepting-samples-in-laboratories>

In summary, the national programme has not identified any need to invite women more frequently as a result of them being on immunosuppressant therapy. These women are to be invited every three years and if there are any clinical indications of pathology, appropriate referral pathways to a Gynaecology services should be followed.

Transgender People



Practices must manage the call/recall of transgender patients for cervical screening. The PCSE systems cannot do this.



Public Health England have published a new leaflet about screening for transgender people which can be downloaded or ordered for free: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-population-screening-information-for-transgender-people>

It includes important information about screening processes and how to access additional support and advice.

Statement Regarding Cervical Screening And Private Gynaecology Providers

Please be advised not to refer patients to providers outside the usual NHS system for NHS cervical screening (this occasionally happens for examples as part of a gynaecology referral).

Occasionally women have cervical screening samples taken when referred to private providers for gynaecological investigation. To maintain and assure standards, the screening programme does not accept the results from such providers as they are not quality assured by the NHS. Under these circumstances, the private sample result does not affect patient NHS recall requirements and may cause downstream issues with follow-up in the screening pathway and so it would be helpful if such gynaecological referrals clearly exclude taking cervical screening samples

Screening after Hysterectomies

Please ensure hospital discharge letter details are entered into patient records appropriately, especially in cases of hysterectomies and whether the cervix has been removed or not. If there is any doubt of a total hysterectomy, please contact the treating hospital for the details. Where required, women should be ceased according to national guidance available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cervical-screening-removing-women-from-routine-invitations>

Please note **ceasing forms** need to be sent directly to PCSE (contact details below in Call/Recall section).

Computer Says “No”

As part of the awareness week in June, Jo’s Trust released a new report called ‘Computer says “No”’. The report highlights some issues that people experience in trying to access cervical screening and makes 6 recommendations to improve access. You can read the report here:

https://www.jostrust.org.uk/access?mc_cid=a82c332154&mc_eid=7217a67975



Kent and Medway Cancer Screening Action Group

The Screening and Immunisation Team have launched a new Kent and Medway Cancer Screening Action Group to look at ways to improve cancer screening uptake. The first ‘task and finish’ work stream is working on cervical screening.

Please get in touch if you would like to be informed or involved in this work: phst@nhs.net

If you would like to arrange a visit from the screening team to look at creating a bespoke plan to improve uptake of cancer screening amongst your patients, please get in touch: phst@nhs.net

Call/Recall

Please check that someone in the practice is checking **Open Exeter weekly** for the prior notification lists and electronic patient cards and acting on them promptly and appropriately. This ensures patients are called at the correct time.

Patients are eligible for screening from when they have received their first invitation letter.

The PCSE call and recall service can be contacted via:

Website: pcse.england.nhs.uk/

Email: pcse.enquiries@nhs.net Phone: 03330142884

Address: Primary Care Support England, PO Box 350, Darlington, DL1 9QN.

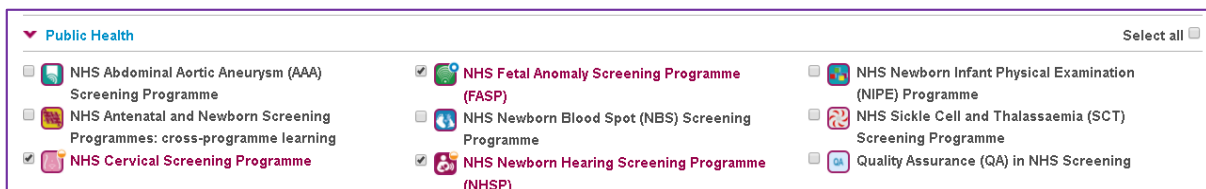


New 3 Yearly Update Course

Public Health England has launched a new free e-learning update course designed to meet the requirements of the 3 yearly update for sample takers. The course is comprehensive and interactive. It contains the latest information and reflects all national guidance.

Please ensure you email phst@nhs.net your certificate so we can keep your records up-to-date.

The course can be accessed on the E-learning for Healthcare website: <https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/nhs-screening-programmes/>



Cervical Guidance

All professional guidance is available on the Public Health England website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/cervical-screening-professional-guidance>

It includes: Programme and Colposcopy Management; Removing Women from Routine Invitations; Informed Consent; Sample Taker Training and Accepting Samples in the Laboratory.

Be alerted when new guidance is released by signing up to the PHE Screening Blog:

<https://phscreening.blog.gov.uk/>



Feedback and Contact Us:

We would really welcome feedback from you about this newsletter – please let us know if you have topics you would like to see included, or anything you did or didn't find useful.

Please get in touch if you would like to arrange a visit to look at ways to improve cervical screening uptake in your practice, or to let us know plans you have implemented that have improved uptake.

Kent and Medway Screening and Immunisation Team: phst@nhs.net or 01233658405



**Cervical screening
saves lives.**

All women over 25, are invited
to have regular smear tests.

It's important to attend when
invited.

