

Special Bulletin

7 September 2017 / 227a

Extension of HPV Primary Testing Pilot to Avon Cervical Screening Programme (Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ONLY)

With effect from Monday 14th September 2017 the Southmead Cytology Laboratory analysing NHS Cervical Screening Programme samples will be extending HPV Primary Testing to include **ALL** GP Practices in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire submitting cervical samples to this laboratory samples for screening. The pilot has been running successfully within a number of GP Practices across Avon since September 2013, and extension to the programme is in line with the National Screening Committee proposal to roll out HPV Primary Testing across England by 2019.

Extending HPV Primary Testing to all GP Practices in Avon means that recent media reports of long delays experienced by women in receiving their screening test results will be rectified across the local area, returning to the national target of 98% of women receiving their results within 14 days.

Preparation for this change has been undertaken by the South West Regional Cytology Training School by including sessions on HPV Primary Testing in both the 2 Day Basic Sample Taker course and the 3 yearly ½ Day updates attended by Practice Nurses and Drs taking cervical samples.

There is no change to the collection of cervical samples, the brushes, collection pots and request forms will remain the same. The change involves the way in which samples are processed in the laboratory. Currently non-HPV Primary Testing Pilot samples are screened manually by microscopy and abnormal samples are then screened for High Risk HPV (HR HPV). The new laboratory process will screen all samples for HR HPV and only those testing positive for HR HPV will be screened microscopically.

Eligible women invited for cervical screening who are registered at GP Practices in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire will receive a modified invitation letter from Primary Care Support England together with additional information on HPV Primary Testing not currently included in the standard patient information literature *NHS Cervical Screening – Helping You Decide*. Cervical Sample Takers should ensure women attending for screening are aware that their sample will be screened for HR HPV as part of the informed consent process.

GP Practices with queries around these changes should contact either the South West Regional Cytology Training School 0117 4149807 or the Southmead Cytology Laboratory 0117 4149889 for more information. The training school can arrange 1:1 sessions with GP Practices if required and are planning a WebEx training session for practices access – dates to be confirmed.

More information is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/cervical-screening-professional-guidance>

Please see attached documents:

HPV Invite

HPV Primary Screening Information for Women

HPV Primary Sample Taker Leaflet

Avon Cervical Screening Programme Sample Taker Information