Severn Pathology is part of North Bristol NHS Trust

FOR PRACTICE MANAGERS AND CERVICAL SCREENING SAMPLE TAKERS:
CHANGES TO THE CERVICAL SCREENING PROGRAMME

Somerset, Bath & North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire

Communications were sent out on the 3 September 2019 by the Head of Public Health Commissioning, NHS England and NHS Improvement - South West to confirm that the processing and reporting of all cervical screening samples taken in your practice will transfer to Severn Pathology, North Bristol NHS Trust. This change will be effective for all samples taken on and after the 19th November 2019 for practices in Bath & North East Somerset, Swindon, Wiltshire (practices currently served by RUH Bath) and Somerset.

ALL cervical samples sent to Severn Pathology from this date will undergo testing for Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) in the first instance (HPV primary screening). The result of the HPV test determines whether or not cytology testing is also carried out.

The method of collecting the samples for HPV primary screening is unchanged, but it is important that you inform all patients who attend for cervical screening from the effective date, that their sample will be tested for HPV, and explain the significance of a negative or positive HPV result.

Patients can be assured that HPV primary screening with cytology triage where appropriate is more sensitive than screening by cytology alone. The NHS is implementing HPV as a primary screening test for the whole of England by the end of December 2019.

Training for sample takers

As per previous communications from NHS England & Improvement, sample takers are required to complete primary HPV screening e-learning course for sample takers prior to the 19th November. This course can be found at https://portal.e-lfh.org.uk/

Cervical Screening Requests

Please be aware of the following changes in the requesting process which may require action for your practice:
Electronic requesting systems (including ICE and other order communications platforms) will no longer be used for cervical screening samples. Any practices currently using electronic requesting for cervical screening requests will have this functionality switched off from the date of service transfer. Any electronic requesting currently used for other pathology requests will remain unchanged.

**All sample takers will require access to Open Exeter** and should request access from their practice manager if they do not currently have it.

A guide to using Open Exeter for this purpose is attached to this communication.

**Electronic Reporting of Cervical Screening Results**

Cervical screening results will be sent electronically from Severn Pathology, North Bristol NHS Trust to all GP practice clinical systems.

Please be aware that as HPV primary screening samples can be reported faster than cytology primary screening samples, there will be a period of a few days where you will receive reports from both the new and previous provider on different patients via different routes.

**Direct Referrals from the Laboratory to Colposcopy**

Direct referrals will be made from the laboratory at Severn Pathology, North Bristol NHS Trust following the service transfer but practices will not notice any change in the referral process. Your patients will continue to be referred to the same colposcopy clinic as previously.

**Sample Taker Consumables**

Severn Pathology will be requesting that all cervical screening samples be transported in new bags which will have orange swirls with a white outline. The bags will be provided with the sample taker consumable kits. Existing kits and bags can be used up before switching over. The current arrangements in place for requesting sample taker kits will remain unchanged until further notice.

**Sample Transport**

Existing arrangements are expected to remain for the collection of cervical screening samples from practices for onward delivery to Bristol from a network of local hubs which will be a mixture of existing and newly created collection points. You will be notified if this changes.

For more information please see:


Or speak to your cervical screening sample taker training lead.

For laboratory queries please contact the Cytology department at Severn Pathology on 0117 414 9810.
Katherine Hunt, Lead Biomedical Scientist, Cytology
Dr Karin Denton, Lead Cytopathologist
Cervical Screening Requests – Open Exeter guide

All cervical screening sample requests will need to be made via Open Exeter using the pre-populated HMR101 (editable) printed request form.

Sample taker PIN codes and clinical details should be typed into the relevant boxes, which will eliminate issues for the laboratory with hand-written forms.

Once the HMR101 request form is complete, please ensure you print the A4 PDF version directly from Open Exeter.

1. Enter patient’s NHS number:

2. On top left hand corner click on HMR101 editable form

3. Type sample taker PIN code and enter clinical details
4. Select **A4 PDF**

5. Click Open and a PDF version of the pre-populated request form with typed sample taker PIN code and clinical history will open.

6. Click print from the Open Exeter form menu

There will be no changes to sample taker PIN ID’s – please continue to use existing PINs when requested cervical screening tests. Please obtain new PIN IDs from your usual source.