

South West Public Health

Section 7a Screening & Immunisations Bulletin



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Contents:

- **ICARS**
- **Cervical Sample Green Bag Compliance: BSPS ONLY**
- **NHS Flu Vaccination Programme – Update to annual flu letter – FOR INFORMATION**
- **URGENT Cervical Screening Awareness Week**
- **Further Information**

ICARS

Please note the ICARS newsletter is now circulated fortnightly. The following issue will be included next week.

Cervical Sample Green Bag Compliance: BSPS ONLY

FOR PRACTICES USING BPS LABS ONLY

Berkshire & Surrey Pathology Services (BSPS) are currently scoping a bag tracking solution for cervical screening samples as set out in their contract with NHS England.

This will enable BSPS to trace any samples that are sent to the laboratory but not received. A tracking solution will help the lab determine where in their journey they were mislaid and increase the likelihood of locating them. This should improve result outcomes for patients and the overall efficiency of the service.

The first step in this project is to ensure that all HPV Cytology samples are always sent to BSPS in a **green plastic “Cytology HPV Samples Only”** bags which are available to you via CellPath (they should be included in your Thinprep kits). This is because it is these green plastic bags that will be tracked.

Even if you only have one sample to send, this should be placed in an individual sample bag (to protect the request form in the event of sample leakage) which in turn should be placed in one of the green plastic bags.

We acknowledge that these are single use bags and this procedure will increase the overall use of plastic but BSPS are in the process of arranging for all their HPV plastic to be re-cycled in order to minimise any impact on the environment.

BSPS are therefore asking for your assistance to make sure that, henceforth, all HPV Cytology samples are transported in green plastic “Cytology HPV Samples Only” bags. Once they have full compliance, they can progress the rest of the tracking project which should improve efficiency for all their service users.

If you have any questions, please contact the BSPS HPV helpdesk on asp-tr.bspshpv@nhs.net or call 01932 726622.

NHS Flu Vaccination Programme – Update to annual flu letter – FOR INFORMATION

The NHS annual flu letter has been [updated](#) to include a footnote that clarifies that eligibility for flu vaccine is not limited to “those living in long-stay residential care homes”. It “includes other long-stay care facilities where rapid spread is likely to follow introduction of infection and cause high morbidity and mortality (this does not include prisons, young offender institutions, university halls of residence etc.)” as set out in the Green Book.

URGENT Cervical Screening Awareness Week

Cervical Screening Awareness Week: 19th– 24th June

Next week is Cervical Screening Awareness Week. Please use this as an opportunity to promote screening attendance with your patients and within your clinical setting. This is also an ideal opportunity to engage with hard to reach groups and follow up on patients who have not attended in the past.

Click on the link below for an abundance of useful resources including posters, videos and websites.

[Go to this Sway](#)

If this link is unsuccessful, please use the link below:

<https://sway.office.com/jcuiquzFeRr2e193?ref=Link>

Further Information

Back issues of these bulletins and attachments are available on the NHS England website [here](#). **Please note that if there are no items for your information a GP Bulletin will not be circulated.** If you have any questions or wish to provide feedback, please contact the Integrated Public Health Team at england.swscreeningandimms@nhs.net.