

# HPV CERVICAL SCREENING NEWSLETTER

March 2024

## Programme Updates

### We want to hear from you!

Everyone can play a part in the drive towards eliminating cervical cancer – together we can make it happen.

We have launched our new [online consultation survey](#) to help develop Ireland's action plan to eliminate cervical cancer by 2040. Hearing the voices of healthcare professionals involved in the delivery of vaccination, screening and treatment is a crucial part of the consultation.

The survey takes 10 - 15 minutes to complete and asks for your opinions on topics including:

- the importance of HPV vaccination and screening
- your professional experience of HPV vaccination and screening
- your experience of successful initiatives in relation to HPV vaccination and screening
- your ideas to improve HPV vaccination and screening uptake.

We would be grateful if you would complete the [survey](#), share with your colleagues and tell us your views to help us develop Ireland's Cervical Cancer Elimination Action Plan.

By taking positive steps such as



Vaccination

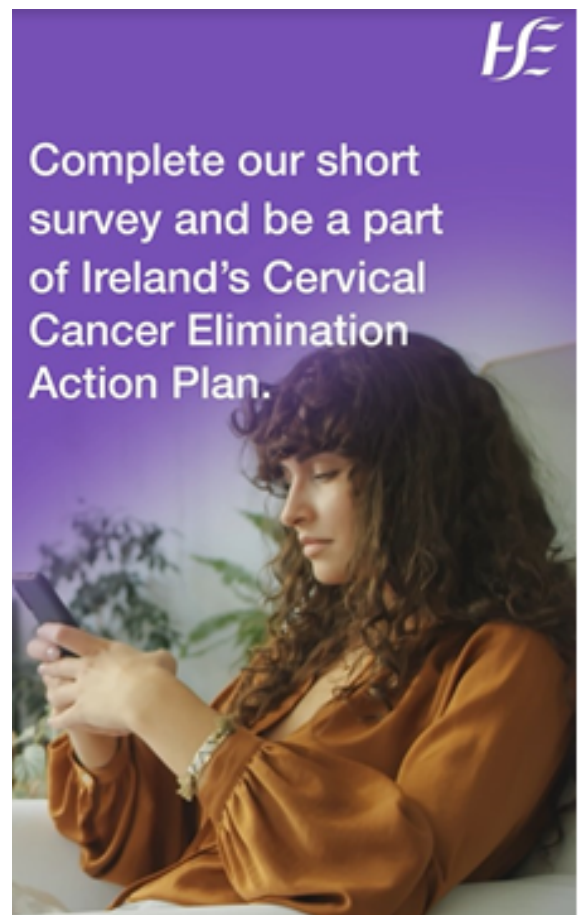


Screening



Treatment

we can work together to eliminate cervical cancer in Ireland.



## Update: electronic referral between GPs and colposcopy clinics nationally

A pilot project for electronic referral direct from your practice management system to the hospital colposcopy unit has completed in University Hospital Kerry and we are delighted to announce we are rolling this out to the rest of the country. North East Regional Colposcopy Unit is now live and we will be providing updates on the rest of the colposcopy units in the country over the coming months.

**Please note** the aim of electronic referral is to help prevent delays for screening participants, ensure a robust referral process and optimise use of resources. The result of the cervical screening test must be attached to the electronic referral. If there is no result attached it will be returned to you. This information is required by the colposcopy unit to triage the referral and issue an appointment within agreed waiting times.

For those involved in the rollout of the project please contact [support.healthlink@healthmail.ie](mailto:support.healthlink@healthmail.ie) & [support.healthlink@hse.ie](mailto:support.healthlink@hse.ie) directly if you have issues submitting the electronic referral or attaching the screening report to colposcopy.

### Important reminder regarding one-time HPV cervical screening test for women aged over 60

In October 2023, we started issuing invite letters to older women aged 60 years as part of our work to increase equity in screening. We are providing an opportunity for one HPV screen for women who were not included in the March 2020 age extension to 65 as they had finished their screening journey at that time.

We would like to thank you all for your support and help in delivering this initiative, which supported the request from women for an additional screening test. We would like to remind all sample takers to check the register to make sure people are eligible for their one-time HPV cervical screening test as not everyone over the age of 65 is eligible.

### Reminder regarding correct mobile numbers

It is essential that you include the patient's current mobile number when sending a referral to colposcopy. Many colposcopy clinics send text message reminders near the appointment date, as this helps to reduce DNA rates. Please double check that each referral contains the correct phone number.



## Vial expiration

Please note the upcoming vial batch expiry date, as follows:

Product	Lot Number	Expiry Date
Vial	2186BE	14/06/2024

These vials must be removed from use in your practice by the beginning of May 2024. Payment will not issue for tests submitted to the programme laboratory in expired vials. Samples may also have to be destroyed and repeated.

The vial ID sticker must be placed by the requesting sample taker on the corresponding request form.

## Change of practice & clinic addresses

There are a number of very specific steps required by CervicalCheck when you are changing address. This is essential to avoid disruption of service caused by late notifications of change of address. Late notification can hinder receipt of results, delivery of screening kits and payment for cervical screening services. Your details cannot be updated on CervicalCheck's website until we have all of the required information. If you have any questions please contact [admin@cervicalcheck.ie](mailto:admin@cervicalcheck.ie)

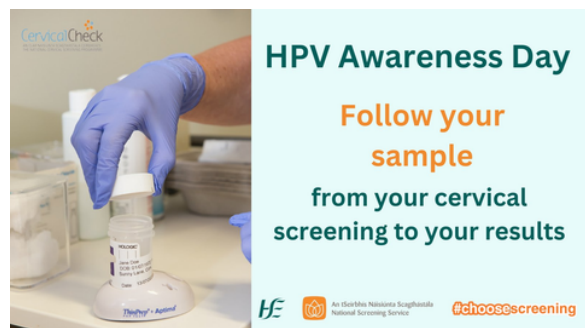
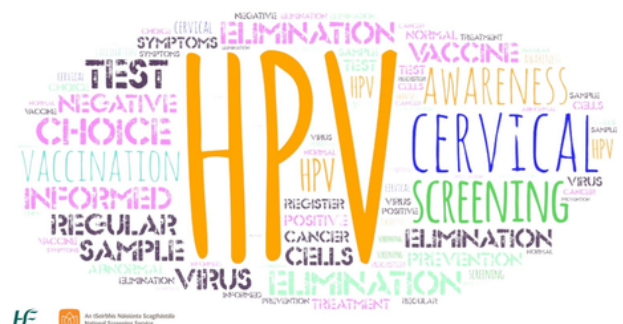
# International HPV Awareness Day

On International HPV Awareness Day (04 March) we highlighted some new blogs including:

- '6 blogs to get you up to date about HPV, vaccines, cervical screening, and cervical cancer elimination'
- 'Follow your sample: from your HPV cervical screening to your results'

These resources may help you answer questions and discuss screening with patients.

If you have an idea for a blog you'd like written please email [communications@screeningservice.ie](mailto:communications@screeningservice.ie)



# Revised Cervical Screening Form

Following discussions with stakeholders and incorporating your feedback on the cervical screening form, a revised form has been approved and is available via your practice management IT systems and in print. The new form has been specifically redesigned to improve the layout and clarity of the sections related to the identification of the clinically responsible doctor and the sample taker. You will also note that the screening form has now been separated from the accompanying information sheet and both will be available to order in print separately.

## Research: Cervical screening awareness and attitudes

In our latest research on cervical screening, over 7 in 10 women said they know that cervical cancer is more treatable if found early. The research also shows that 9 in 10 women intend to attend their next cervical screening appointment. You can read more about the research [here](#).

## Updated CervicalCheck education information for healthcare professionals

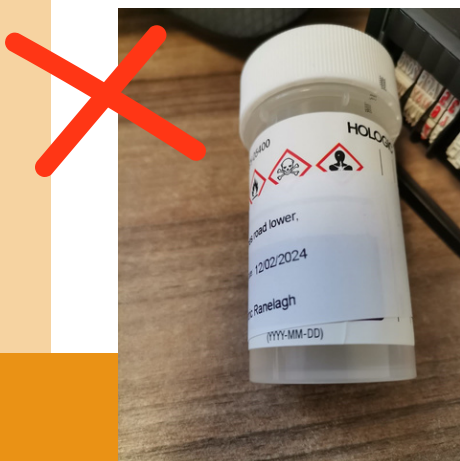
We have redeveloped the [Education and Training page on our website](#). The page now features answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) about CervicalCheck education and training. The top of the page has a list of FAQs and you can click on the question that most interests you, so your screen scrolls directly to the answer they are looking for.

The page provides new information on the Cervical Screening Education Programme (CSEP), and the two pathways our Screening Training Unit (STU) offers to enable people to achieve accreditation and compliance.

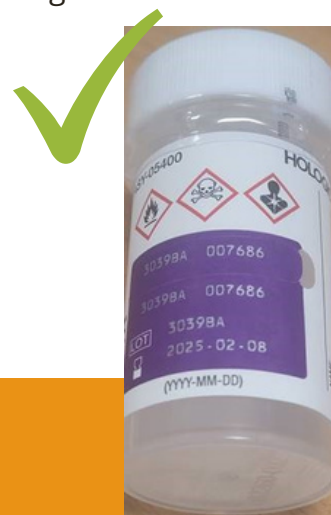
Terms such as novice sample taker and experienced sample taker are explained, and there is a listing of clinical workshops this year. There are lots of useful links to forms and other resources, as well as advice on how to create an account on the e-learning portal, [nssresources.ie](#)

## Hologic vials and labels

**Reminder:** Where practice labels are used as identifiers on cervical sample vials (ThinPrep® vials), they must be placed where they do not obscure either the Hologic vial expiry date or the vial reference number. Both pieces of information must be visible on the vial for the sample to be processed. Please ensure all staff in your practice involved in cervical screening are aware of this requirement.



*Vial label that is obscuring expiry dates and peel-off strip*



*Patient demographics and labels clear of expiry date and peel-off strip*



# Training and learning

We recently welcomed 20 practice nurses to our head office, taking part in our cervical screening education programme for novice sample takers. The training was facilitated by our CervicalCheck clinical trainers. Thanks to everyone who took part.



Find out more about our education programmes [here](#).



Don't forget to follow us on X [@NSShse](#) and [LinkedIn](#) to get all your up-to-date information.  
[#choosescreening](#)



## Schedule of learning events: January - June 2024

The Screening Training Unit (STU) team are continuing their lunchtime webinars into 2024. For more information about January to June dates and topics, please see [here](#). Recordings of previous webinars are available [here](#).

MARCH 2024	SPEAKER	DATE AND TIME	LINK TO REGISTER
Cervical Screening for menopausal Women	Dr Ciara McCarthy	Wednesday	<a href="#">Cervical Screening for menopausal Women</a>
	ICGP/HSE GP Clinical Lead in Women's Health	06th March 1-2pm	
Unravelling Cervical Screening Eligibility: Frequently Asked Questions	Dr Sarah Fitzgibbon Primary Care Advisor, CervicalCheck	Tuesday 19th March 1-2pm	<a href="#">Unravelling Cervical Screening Eligibility: Frequently Asked Questions</a>
APRIL 2024	SPEAKER	DATE AND TIME	LINK TO REGISTER
Promoting sexual wellbeing: encouraging open conversations	Prof Fiona Lyons Consultant in Genitourinary Medicine, HSE Clinical Lead in Sexual Health	Tuesday 09th April 1-2pm	<a href="#">Promoting sexual wellbeing: encouraging open conversations</a>
Fostering engagement in cervical screening: Encouraging participation	Dr Sarah Fitzgibbon Primary Care Advisor, CervicalCheck	Tuesday 23rd April 1-2pm	<a href="#">Fostering engagement in cervical screening: Encouraging participation</a>
	Ms Lynn Swinburne Senior Health Promotion Officer, National Screening Service		

## Contact us

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