



HPV CERVICAL SCREENING NEWSLETTER

June 2023

Important Programme Update

• Change to call/ recall of participants

In the past, women became eligible for repeat screening tests at different intervals e.g. 1, 2, or 3 months before the test due date. Following a robust review of the call/recall and repeat test processes in CervicalCheck, these eligibility dates will change from 17 July 2023. This is to align the call/recall processes across all the recall categories which will streamline the eligibility check.

All women will become eligible for their screening test 1 calendar month before the next screening test due date, regardless of whether they are on a 1-year, 3-year or 5-year recall. For example:

Date test taken	Recall	all Eligible from	
01/08/2022	12-month	01/07/2023	
01/08/2020	3-year	01/07/2023	
01/08/2018	5-year	01/07/2023	

If tests are taken earlier than these new eligibility dates, the test will be processed but payment will not issue. For 12-month repeats in particular, it is important to leave at least 11 months before repeating the test to allow time for the HPV to clear. Please use the website eligibility checker to ensure that women are eligible. Where reminders are in practice IT systems, these will need to be changed to reflect the new dates. If you have any further questions please contact info@cervicalcheck.ie

Hologic vials and labels

Reminder: if you are using sticky patient labels, please ensure that the expiry date is not obscured on the sample vial. See examples below of what to do and what not to do.



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



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

Near miss needle-stick incident

We have been notified of a recent incident where an open sample box was left on a countertop beside a sharps bin before being sent to the laboratroy. A used needle was inadvertently dropped into the box and transported to the lab where it was seen by laboratory staff when the box was opened. Please ensure that cervical screening sample boxes are stored safely while pending filling and dispatch.

Colposcopy clinic management

CervicalCheck modifies colposcopy referral pathways to ensure women are waiting as short a time as possible for their colposcopy appointment. The programme nominated clinic will apply to all screening tests taken under your clinical governance. Please make the referral to the colposcopy unit identified on the prefilled referral form sent to you by CervicalCheck. However, if it is the woman's choice not to attend that unit she must be advised that this may lead to longer waiting times.

Immunocompromised patients

We have recently received a number of queries from women and healthcare professionals about increased screening intervals for immunocompromised patients, especially those on immunosuppressant medication for inflammatory conditions. In the absence of HPV, there is no evidence that these women are at additional risk. The current QA standards still recommend that women pre and post organ transplantation, those on renal dialysis and women living with HIV have annual screening.

• Next vial batch expiry date

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

Lot number	Expiry date	Use by	Remove from stock
1120AA	28/04/2023	17/03/2023	Immediately
1201AA	20/07/2023	08/06/2023	08/06/2023
1299AA	25/10/2023	13/09/2023	13/09/2023
2011AA	11/01/2024	30/11/2023	30/11/2023
2186BE	14/06/2024	10/05/2024	10/05/2024
2269AA	26/09/2024	15/08/2024	15/08/2024

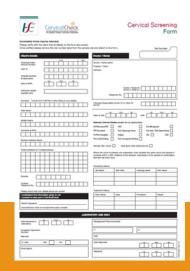
These vials must be removed from use in your practice as per the above table. Payment will not issue for tests submitted to the programme laboratory in expired vials. Samples may also have to be destroyed and repeated.

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

New screening form in development

There will be a new screening form issued in the coming months. We are reviewing the cervical screening form and will be separating out the form from the information sheet based on feedback received. This will reduce unnecessary printing and is a greener solution.

We will keep you informed about our progress.



Personal cervical screening reviews now available

As you may be aware, we have launched a new review process for women who develop cervical cancer after screening, called personal cervical screening reviews. Personal cervical screening reviews are available on request to all women who have had a cervical cancer diagnosis, and a CervicalCheck screening test in the 10 years before their diagnosis. Read more about cervical screening reviews <a href="https://example.com/here/be/h

Minister Naughton launches National Screening Service Strategy - Choose Screening

On 26 April 2023, we were delighted to welcome Minister Hildegarde Naughton to the National Screening Service Central Office to launch our first <u>Strategic Plan</u>, *Choose Screening: Together we can make a difference*. The event was an important milestone for us and we are grateful to so many of our stakeholders who attended the event and worked with us to develop our new Strategy. The Strategy focuses on the breadth of service we will deliver over the next five years as part of Ireland's national healthcare system. Putting people at the centre of what we do and working in partnership with our stakeholders, are the themes that run through the strategy.



Programme Innovations

Self-sampling survey

There is a growing evidence base for the use of self-sampling in cervical cancer screening. In Ireland, the National Screening Advisory Committee (NSAC) is considering how self-sampling could compliment the current CervicalCheck programme. This summer, we are carrying out some research to find out what women living in Ireland think about self-sampling and if it would appeal to underscreened and never-screened women in particular. We also want to hear the **views of sampletakers.** Do you think self-sampling for cervical screening could work in Ireland? Please complete our 10 minute survey at the following <u>link</u>. Read more about the continued progress with understanding self-sampling in cervical screening here.

Education

• Training requirements

As per the 2022 national contract for delivery of a cervical screening service, all sampletakers must maintain continuous professional development by completing a CervicalCheck clinical update at least once every three years. Currently, we have three standalone clinical updates. All new





sampletakers must now complete CervicalCheck in Practice (CCIP) in order to

register as a CervicalCheck sampletaker. The following three accredited modules are available on www.NSSresources.ie:

- CervicalCheck in Practice (1.5 CEUs/CPD points)
- HPV Cervical Screening Module (1 CEU/CPD point)
- Cervix Visual Assessment Guide and Recognising the Suspicious Cervix (2 CEU/CPD points).

You will receive a certificate of completion which will be valid for 3 years, and will fulfil your contractual obligation. A new version of the CervicalCheck in Practice module will be launched in early July.

Schedule of learning events: June - December 2023

LINK TO **JULY 2023 SPEAKER** DATE AND TIME REGISTER Ms Charlene Bogan Monday Candidate Advanced Nurse Overview of Overview of Colposcopy care 17th July Practitioner (cANP) in Women's Health Colposcopy care 1-2pm Letterkenny University Hospital LINK TO AUGUST 2023 **SPEAKER** DATE AND TIME REGISTER Wednesday Dr Sarah Fitzgibbon The CervicalCheck Eligibility Framework and Special The CervicalCheck 23rd August Primary Care Clinical Advisor Screening Circumstances Eligibility Framework CervicalCheck 1-2pm LINK TO **SEPTEMBER 2023 SPEAKER** DATE AND TIME REGISTER An overview of Prof Fiona Lyons Wednesday Sexually transmitted An overview of Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) Consultant in Genitourinary Medicine 6th September infections (STIs) including testing approaches including testing HSE Clinical Lead in Sexual Health approaches Dr Michelle Murphy Friday Vulval Skin Vulval skin disorders Consultant Dermatologist 22nd September Disorders Senior Lecturer in Medical Education 1-2pm

Sexual Health Network - LGBTI+ Inclusion for Healthcare Professionals and Support Workers working in Sexual Health webinar

This webinar is presented by the Sexual Health Network members, the Sexual Health Centre, Gay Project and LINC discussing the importance of LGBTI+ inclusive approaches to sexual health. The webinar is aimed at any healthcare practitioners, social care workers, youth workers or other support workers whose work involves any aspect of sexual health, whether that is day to day frontline, or occasional support of your clients in relation to relationships, sexual wellbeing or other related aspects. You can watch back on the webinar here.

Did you know? You can access all previous newsletters on the CervicalCheck website here.

• Colposcopy conference 'A New Era for Colposcopy Services'

The sweltering 22-degree heat did nothing to curb the enthusiasm of the 130+ delegation at the CervicalCheck 2023 Annual Colposcopy Conference on the banks of the River Shannon in Athlone on 12 May. Welcoming everyone to the conference on what was also International Nurses Day, our Chief Executive Fiona Murphy paid tribute "to all our nursing colleagues in screening who support our participants every day with care and compassion". You can read more about the conference here.



Dr Jesper Bonde, Professor Grainne Flannelly, Professor Nóirin Russell and Micheál Rourke at the CervicalCheck 2023 Annual Colposcopy Conference

Screening Training Unit (STU) Education Strategy launch

On 08 May, the STU launched <u>CervicalCheck's Education</u> <u>Strategy</u>, a plan for the development of high-quality, accessible education for all healthcare professionals involved in delivering a cervical screening service for the period 2022 to 2025.



Members of the STU and the Education Advisory Group at the launch

The strategy sets out a number of key objectives which provide the foundation for the education of all healthcare professionals that are involved with delivering a world class cervical screening service in Ireland, with the best interests of the woman as the central priority. An integral component of this work is the development of comprehensive education standards and requirements which will ensure a consistent level of education for both novice and experienced sampletakers, so that they can provide safe, effective and person-centred care.

Contact us

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