

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.

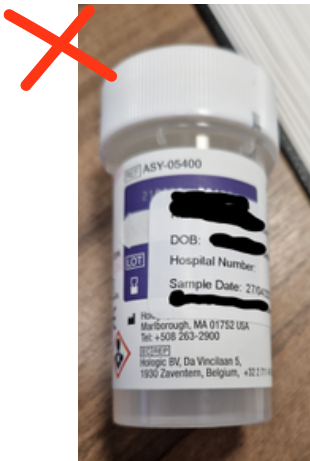
All women will become eligible for their screening test 1 calendar month before the next screening test due date, regardless of whether they are on a 1-year, 3-year or 5-year recall. For example:

Date test taken	Recall	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

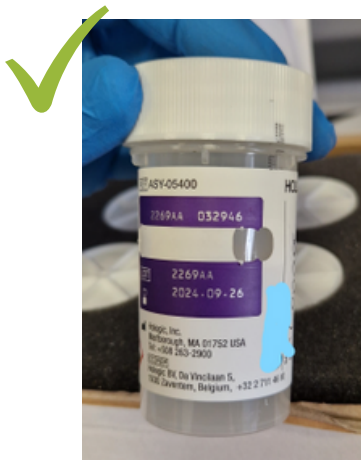
If tests are taken earlier than these new eligibility dates, the test will be processed but payment will not issue. For 12-month repeats in particular, it is important to leave at least 11 months before repeating the test to allow time for the HPV to clear. Please use the website eligibility checker 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



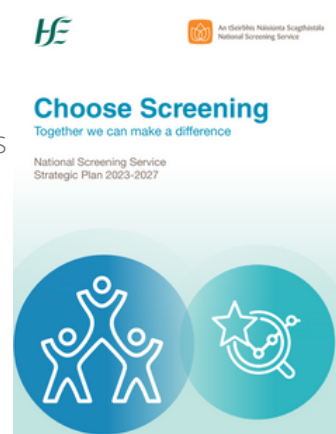
Patient demographics and labels clear of expiry date and peel-off strip

- **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 [here](#).

- **Minister Naughton launches National Screening Service Strategy – Choose Screening**

On 26 April 2023, we were delighted to welcome Minister Hildegard Naughton to the National Screening Service Central Office to launch our first [Strategic Plan](#), *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**

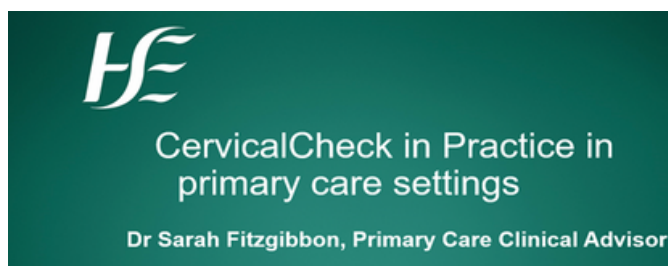
There is a growing evidence base for the use of self-sampling in cervical cancer screening. In Ireland, the National Screening Advisory Committee (NSAC) is considering how self-sampling could compliment the current CervicalCheck programme. This summer, we are carrying out some research to find out what women living in Ireland think about self-sampling and if it would appeal to under-screened 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 [link](#). 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**

Following the success of the Screening Training Unit (STU) team's lunchtime webinars this year, we are planning another series of webinars for the rest of the year. For more information about June to December dates and topics, please see [here](#). Recordings of previous webinars are available [here](#).

Did you know? You can access all previous newsletters on the CervicalCheck website [here](#).

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



Don't forget to follow us on Twitter @NSShse to get all your up to date experience. #choosescreening

• 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 Nóirín Russell and Micheál Rourke at the CervicalCheck 2023 Annual Colposcopy Conference

• Screening Training Unit (STU) Education Strategy launch

On 08 May, the STU launched CervicalCheck's Education Strategy, 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.

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