

# Notice to Smertakers

## CervicalCheck Programme Moves to Population-based Screening by Invitation

From 1 September 2009, a woman will need a letter of invitation from CervicalCheck to avail of a free smear test with the smertaker (GP or practice nurse) of their choice. The Programme is moving from an open access system for women to an organised call, re-call method of invitation in line with best international practice to maximise uptake amongst all eligible women.

From 1 September 2009, processing of CervicalCheck smear tests will be based on:

1. Women presenting to their smertaker **with** a CervicalCheck invitation letter including:
  - Women who receive a CervicalCheck invitation or re-call letter
  - Women aged 25 to 60 who have not had a smear test in the previous three years who have opted-in to the Programme and received an invitation letter
  - Women can opt-in either through online registration on [www.cervicalcheck.ie](http://www.cervicalcheck.ie), by completing and returning a freepost form, or by calling CervicalCheck on Freephone 1800 45 45 55
2. Women presenting to their smertaker **without** a CervicalCheck invitation or re-call letter but who are eligible under one of the following criteria:
  - Women aged over 60 who have never had a smear test
  - Women of any age post colposcopy
  - Women post hysterectomy in certain circumstances
  - Women aged 20 and over on renal dialysis
  - Women aged 20 and over with HIV infection
  - Women aged 20 and over with post organ transplant.

From 1 September 2009 any smear test taken outside the criteria outlined above will not be considered eligible and accordingly will not be processed by CervicalCheck.

This approach has been discussed in detail with the following: The Irish Medical Organisation (IMO); The Irish College of General Practitioners (ICGP); The Dublin Well Woman Centres; The Irish Family Planning Association; The Marie Keating Foundation; and The Irish Cancer Society.

Since its launch on 1 September 2008, CervicalCheck – The National Cervical Screening Programme has proven very successful with uptake rates exceeding expectations. CervicalCheck wishes to thank all registered smertakers for their invaluable contribution to this success.

Queries from smertakers (GPs or practice nurses) regarding the above detail and the move to a call, re-call approach, can be directed to the CervicalCheck administration office on [www.cervicalcheck.ie](http://www.cervicalcheck.ie) or Telephone: 061 461 390.