

HPV CERVICAL SCREENING NEWSLETTER

September 2021

Expired samples update

In July 2021 we reported that a number of samples had expired at our sample processing centre. This issue has now been resolved. All of the 135 people affected have been contacted and advised to book a new appointment with their sampletaker three months after the date of their last sample.

We continue to focus on:

- the management of the people affected
- minimising the risk of a similar incident occurring
- learning from the incident and sharing this learning.

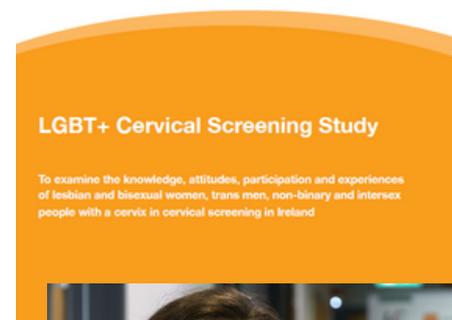
If you have further queries in relation to repeat tests you can contact the Freephone 1800 45 45 55.

Launch of LGBT+ cervical screening report

The attitudes of healthcare professionals and fear of the screening test itself are the main barriers for people in the LGBT+ community to attending screening, according to a new study from the National Screening Service (NSS).

The LGBT+ Cervical Screening Study was launched by the NSS in early September, in partnership with LINC - a non-governmental organisation working with lesbian and bisexual women and their families, and CervicalCheck – the national cervical screening programme.

The report examines the knowledge of; attitudes towards; participation in; and experiences of cervical screening in Ireland. It was open to lesbian and bisexual women, trans men, non-binary, and intersex people.



Dr Sarah Fitzgibbon
Primary Care Clinical Advisor,
CervicalCheck

Approximately 450 people who identify as LGBT+ took part in this study, between October 2020 and March 2021.

The main barriers to screening were found to be heteronormative assumptions made by healthcare professionals (HCPs) regarding their circumstances; the person being asked heterosexual questions by HCPs which did not reflect their gender identity; and fear of the test procedure itself. While the majority have said they had positive experiences of cervical screening, only about two thirds (or 66%) of people said they attended cervical screening regularly. This compares to 80% attendance by the general population. Over 62% of those surveyed do not state their gender/sexual identity when attending for screening.

Dr Sarah Fitzgibbon, Primary Care Clinical Advisor for CervicalCheck said: "One finding that stands out is the inaccurate information circulating in the LGBT+ community that cervical screening may not be necessary for them. CervicalCheck invites every person with a cervix in Ireland aged 25-65 years for free cervical screening, every three or five years depending on age. The aim of the programme is to detect abnormalities in the cervix that, if left untreated, could develop into cancer. Therefore it's important that everyone who is invited attends."

Anyone with a cervix is at risk from cervical cancer and should avail of regular screening (HSE.ie, 2020). International evidence, spanning more than two decades and from a broad range of countries, demonstrates that lesbian and bisexual (LB) women and gender minorities with a cervix (GMC) have significantly lower rates of uptake of HPV and cervical screening. This study sets out to examine the situation in Ireland against this backdrop.

LINC member and cervical screening advocate Ruth O'Mahony said: "A number of lesbian and bisexual women think they don't need to go for screening because they are not having sex with men. And just like women in the community as a whole, many also don't like the invasiveness of the procedure. A positive experience with your GP can help you focus on taking care of your body. And if you can see yourself represented in the information being given out about female health, you'll be more likely to consider it's for you."

Dr Nóirín Russell, Clinical Director, for CervicalCheck said: "Following the publication of this report, CervicalCheck is committed to a number of actions, such as: increased training and supports for sample takers; inclusion of and communication with the LGBT+ community in cervical screening; more targeted messaging and campaigns for the LGBT+ community, working in partnership with the people we care for in screening; and further research."

We will keep you updated as we work to implement these recommendations alongside our partners in LINC and the wider LGBT+ community.



Correct use of colposcopy referral form

Please follow the steps listed below when referring your patient to colposcopy.

Using the correct form speeds up the referral process:

- Use the PREFILLED colposcopy referral form (version 11) to refer your patients to colposcopy. The prefilled form is issued to you a few days after the electronic result.
- Do **not** refer the woman directly to colposcopy. This can create duplicate appointments and unnecessary waiting times.
- Complete the following areas of the form (version 11) legibly and accurately:
 - Consent for text reminder
 - First language
 - Special needs assistance
 - Referral General Practitioner details section
 - Referral information section

The image shows a digital form for colposcopy referrals, divided into three main sections. The top section is 'Patient Details', which includes fields for Surname, First Name, Date of Birth, Address, Mobile, Landline, and checkboxes for 'Consent to text reminder of appointment', 'First Language', 'Special Needs Assistance', 'Interpreter Required', 'PPSN', and 'CSP ID'. The middle section is 'Referring General Practitioner Details', with fields for Name, Address, Telephone, GP Signature, MCRN, and Date. The bottom section is 'Referral Information', which includes a 'Reason for Referral' section with a checkbox for 'Abnormal Cervical Screening Test', a 'CervicalCheck Cervical Screening Test' section with a checkbox for 'Yes/No', 'Referral Cervical Screening Test Details' (Date and Result), 'Accession Number', 'Reporting Laboratory', 'Previous Cervical Screening Test History', 'Previous Colposcopy', 'Previous Treatment', and 'Comments'. To the right of the 'Referral Information' section are fields for 'Reason for Referral: Clinical Indication', 'Clinical Findings (details)', 'Past Medical History', 'Past Surgical History', 'Medications', and 'Allergies' (including 'Smoking status'). Yellow arrows point to the 'Patient Details' section, the 'Referring General Practitioner Details' section, and the 'Reason for Referral' section within 'Referral Information'.

- Attach the full test result, not a summary report. This should include the lab name, specimen number, date of test and full result.
- Contact your IT support if your software package is not generating the full report.
- Send the colposcopy referral form (version 11) and the result to your local colposcopy unit.
- **DO NOT REFER TO MORE THAN ONE UNIT.** The programme automatically forwards referrals where there are lengthy waiting time to units in the same geographical area, with the aim of all women being seen within standard waiting times
- Do **not** take a sample if there is a clinical suspicion of disease. Please contact your colposcopy department immediately, where the woman will be seen within two weeks.

Screening form: who is the clinically responsible doctor?

When filling out the screening form it is really important to:

- Fill in the MCRN/NMBI of the sample taker who takes the test beside the BLUE ARROW.

The diagram shows a screening form with the following fields and annotations:

- Doctor / Nurse** (Header)
- Vial Number:** (Field)
- Doctor / Nurse name:** (Field)
- Practice / Clinic:** (Field)
- Address:** (Field)
- Doctor / Nurse ID: (MCRN or NMBI No.):** (Field) with a blue arrow pointing to it from a box labeled **MCRN/NMBI OF SAMPLETAKER**.
- Telephone No.:** (Field)
- Clinically Responsible Doctor ID or Clinic ID (MCRN):** (Field) with a red arrow pointing to it from a box labeled **MCRN OF CONTRACT HOLDER**.

- Fill in the clinically responsible doctor (CRD) ID or Clinic Id MCRN at the RED ARROW.

The CRD is the CervicalCheck contract holder and the signatory on the Sampletakers Qualified Persons Registration Form.

When a sample arrives at the lab the CRD number is checked first to allow the sample to be processed and the notification added to the CSR.

If the incorrect number is entered, the lab cannot safely identify the contracted doctor. It will not proceed with the processing of this sample until the contacted GP is identified. Identifying the sample taker takes time and can slow down the result notification process for your patient. By correctly filling in the CRD, it reduces the number of calls you get from programme staff requesting clarification of details.

By entering the correct CRD number you are ensuring:

- The correct clinically responsible doctor is identified for the test.
- The CRD will get paid for the test.
- The result of the test will be returned to the correct CRD.
- there are no delays in possessing of the sample.

If more than one doctor holds a contract with CervicalCheck each sample taker must complete a Sampletakers Qualified Persons Registration Form with each of the contracted doctors. This ensures the sample taker can be linked to the CRDs in the lab for safe and timely processing of each sample.

**National University
of Ireland, Galway**



Course Title: Best Practice in Cervical Smear Taking
Level: 9 Credits: 10 Cost: €550

Commencing Date: 8th September 2021
Closing Date: 15th July 2021

Contact Name: Catherine Meagher
E-Mail: Catherine.meagher@nuigalway.ie
Tel: 091 492829

Administrator: Mari Moran
E-Mail: Mari.moran@nuigalway.ie
Tel: 091 493740

How to apply: The application form needs to be submitted by email to mari.moran@nuigalway.ie. Information about the module can be found <https://www.nuigalway.ie/pca/bestpracticeincervicalsmeartaking/>

**University College
Cork**



Course Title: NU6158 Evidence Based Cervical Screening
Level: CPD Module Credits: 10
Cost: €550 plus €35 Application Fee

Commencing Date: 10th January 2022
Closing Date: 30th October 2021

Contact Name: Dr Serena Fitzgerald, Module Leader
E-Mail: serena.fitzgerald@ucc.ie
Tel: 021 4901516

Contact Name: Ms Anna O'Leary, CPD Lead
E-Mail: anna.oleary@ucc.ie
Tel: 021 4901483

Apply on line: <https://www.ucc.ie/en/nu6158/>

**Royal College of
Surgeons Ireland**



Course Title: Clinical Nursing Cervical Sample Taking
Course Level: 9 Credits: 10 Cost: €550

Commencing Date: 4th November 2021
Closing Date: 4th October 2021

Contact Name: Dr Sherly George
E-Mail: sherlygeorge@rcsi.ie
Tel: 01 4028643

Administrator: Anne-Marie Kirby
E-Mail: amkirby@rcsi.ie
Tel: 01 4022206

Apply on line: To be confirmed

**Irish College of
General Practitioners**



Course Title: Cervical Screening Education course

Commencing Date: 11th October 2021
Closing Date: 11th September 2021

Contact Name: Dr Noirín O'Herlihy
E-Mail: womenshealth@icgp.ie
Tel: 01 6763705

Administrator: TBC
E-Mail: TBC

Apply on line: www.icgp.ie/go/courses

Please click on this link [Prospectus – Cervical Screening Training programmes 2021 – 2022 \(cervicalcheck.ie\)](#) to access the Cervical Screening Education Prospectus 2021-2022.

Should you require further assistance please use the following contact details

Senior Training Coordinator: Louise Mc Kee. E-Mail: Nessa-Louise.McKee@screeningservice.ie

Senior Training Coordinator: Debbie Ramsbottom. E-Mail: Debbie.Ramsbottom@screeningservice.ie

Cervical Screening education

Places are still available on the Cervical Screening Education Programme in the Irish College of General Practitioners and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. The clinical component should take place in the clinical area where the trainee sample taker is based. A CervicalCheck appointed clinical trainer is assigned to each trainee to support the clinical aspects of education.

Please refer to the information on the previous page for course details. The cervical screening education prospectus is available [here](#).

Further information available from:

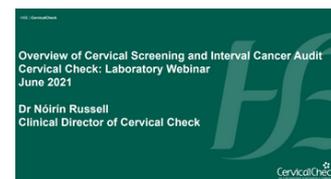
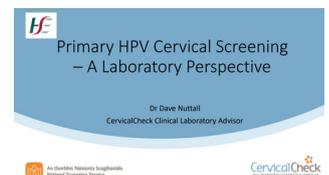
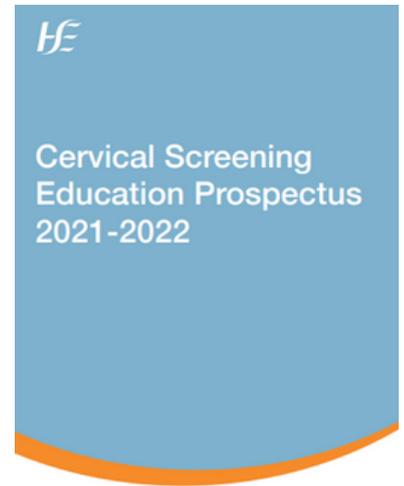
*Dr Rachael Comer, Education and Screening Training Unit
CervicalCheck, CervicalCheck, National Screening Service, Mount
Kennett House, Henry Street, Limerick, V944KN3N*

Helpful hint: Results turnaround times are changing due to COVID-19. If your patient asks you when they can expect their results, you can check the website [here](#). Results are now taking between 6 to 8 weeks weeks, due to demand. This is a decrease from an 8 to 10 week turnaround time earlier in the year.

CervicalCheck webinars

Keep an eye on our [CervicalCheck healthcare professionals website](#) for news on future webinars including a CervicalCheck update for GPs and public nurses in November.

If you missed any of CervicalCheck's recent webinars on topics including Primary HPV Cervical Screening – A Laboratory Perspective and Overview of Cervical Screening and Interval Cancer Audit CervicalCheck: Laboratory Webinar you can watch them back [here](#).



Contact us

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Primary Care Coordinator

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