

# HPV CERVICAL SCREENING NEWSLETTER

July 2024

## Programme Updates

### Reminder: Screening for women not registered at your practice

We are aware that seasonal pressures on GP services may at times limit capacity to offer primary HPV cervical screening, and that people who are seeking to book screening appointments may be asked to wait a few weeks for their appointment or call back. A cervical screening test is not an urgent test so women can be reassured that they do not need an urgent appointment.

However, it is a principle of CervicalCheck that women can book a screening test with **any** practice or clinic contracted with the programme. This means women do not need to be a registered patient of your practice or clinic to have their screening test.

When a woman's test is due or if she is a new participant, she can have a free cervical screening test with any contracted provider. So far this year, we have received 31 complaints about 45 different practices, an increase from 25 complaints about 29 different practices last year. These complaints and queries detail how women have not been able to secure cervical screening appointments at practices and clinics where they are not registered patients. All complaints are followed up individually with practices and clinics to ensure they are offering appointments as per their contractual obligation.

### CervicalCheck Conference 2024: Fostering partnerships in cervical screening

Planning for our CervicalCheck Conference 2024 on 19 October 2024 continues. The conference is dedicated to fostering collaboration among all our stakeholders, including sample takers, laboratory, histology and colposcopy colleagues.



The call for abstracts is now open and you can submit your abstract by 13 September. Poster abstracts should be based on a project, patient/public initiative or enhancement in cervical screening, colposcopy, laboratory or histology service delivery under one of the following themes: quality improvement, fostering partnerships and improving equity.

More details are available [here](#).

## Reminder: Tick the box!

<b>E. Cervical Screening Test Information</b>									
		Day		Month		Year			
Date of Test									
<b>Sample site</b> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <span><input type="checkbox"/> Cervix</span> <span><input type="checkbox"/> Vault (post total hysterectomy)</span> </div>									
Where the cervix is present, the sampletaker must visualise the entire cervix and sample it correctly with 5 x 360° rotations of the broom/brush. Submission of the sample is confirmation that this has been done.									

Please make sure you tick the correct sample site when you fill in a cervical screening form. This helps to prevent delays in processing the sample.

- **Where the cervix is present** and has been viewed and sampled correctly, tick the Cervix box.
- **Where the cervix is not present**, tick the Vault (post-total hysterectomy) box.

## 'Your colposcopy explained'

Everything your patients need to know about going for a colposcopy, from getting their appointment, to what happens during their exam, to their colposcopy results is answered in a [recent blog](#) on our website by midwife Colposcopist Ann Marie Collins.



## Translated information available

We have resources in over 20 languages that help explain cervical screening to participants where English is not their first language, including CervicalCheck information sheets, screening forms and information videos. If you would like to suggest a language that a resource should be translated into, please email [communications@screeningservice.ie](mailto:communications@screeningservice.ie)

[illegible]

## Primary care monitoring

In the coming weeks, we will be contacting a sample of contracted doctors with information about their engagement with the Standards for Quality Assurance in Cervical Screening – Quality Assurance in Primary Care & Other Settings.



# Cervical Screening Education Programme

We are pleased to invite you to participate in the Cervical Screening Education Programme designed specifically for **experienced sample takers**.

An experienced sample taker is someone with extensive experience in taking cervical samples and offering a cervical screening service. They may be nurses or doctors working under the supervision of a Clinically Responsible Doctor (CRD) or may be CRDs themselves.

This role is crucial to the success of eliminating cervical cancer in Ireland, by ensuring you have the most up-to-date education and resources. If you have completed the education programme prior to the transition to primary

HPV screening in 2020, this is a new programme that will provide you with the additional knowledge and understanding of HPV cervical screening, including:

- **Understanding HPV:** Update your knowledge on HPV infection and its transient nature. This will help you explain and reassure women who receive a repeat in one year result.
- **Effective Communication:** Learn how to clearly explain the benefits and limitations of screening, the significance of consent, and the implications of all possible results and referrals.
- **Answering FAQs:** Build confidence in addressing questions about HPV vaccination, various referral pathways (Colposcopy vs Ambulatory Gynae), and the quality assurance processes of the cervical screening programme.
- **Programme Processes:** Gain a thorough understanding of essential processes, including when to complete the hysterectomy data collection forms, failsafe mechanisms, and discharge procedures.

The education is delivered through online recorded presentations, allowing you to learn at your own pace. Additionally, a CervicalCheck Clinical Trainer will visit your workplace to support you and ensure you are clinically competent. Upon completion, you will receive 24 CPD/CEU from NMBI or ICGP, and an additional 3 CPD/CEU if you attend a 3-hour observational visit at colposcopy.

By participating, you will enhance your ability to provide a high-quality cervical screening service to screening participants.

Click [here](#) for further information about education programmes and clinical updates or email [stu@cervicalcheck.ie](mailto:stu@cervicalcheck.ie) with any queries.



An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Scaghtála  
National Screening Service



Application Form for Cervical Screening Education Programme (Experienced Sampletakers)  
Please type into this application form and return via email to [stu@cervicalcheck.ie](mailto:stu@cervicalcheck.ie)

Part A to be completed by Applicant	Part B Trainee supervision to be completed by Clinically Responsible Doctor (CRD)
<p>Applicant Name: _____</p> <p>Applicant MCR/NMBI No: _____</p> <p>GP <input type="checkbox"/> Registered General Nurse <input type="checkbox"/> Registered Midwife <input type="checkbox"/> (please note that only Nurses &amp; Midwives registered on these divisions are eligible to perform cervical screening)</p> <p>Practice Address &amp; Eircode: _____</p> <p>Practice Tel No: _____</p> <p>Applicant Mobile: _____</p> <p>Applicant Email: _____</p> <p>Do you have a specific learning need that may affect your studies? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, a member of the STU team will be in contact.</p> <p>I consent to the use of this email for administrative communications from CervicalCheck. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> (Administrative communications will include information on policy updates, study days, newsletters etc)</p> <p>The applicant acknowledges and agrees that CervicalCheck cervical screening tests will be carried out under the clinical responsibility of the general practitioner (GP) pursuant to the contract with registered medical practitioners for the provision of a primary care based cervical screening service. The Contracted GP shall receive payment for all such tests carried out.</p> <p>Signature of Applicant: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p>	<p>I am aware that a CervicalCheck-appointed Clinical Trainer will visit the trainee in my practice. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>In modelling best practice, I understand that the CervicalCheck-appointed Clinical Trainer may take a cervical screening test in my practice. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>I agree to supervise the trainee and support the policies and protocols of CervicalCheck. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The Clinically Responsible Doctor (CRD) i.e. the contract holder with CervicalCheck must sign the below section: Please Note: CervicalCheck-appointed clinical trainers are covered by HSE clinical indemnity.</p> <p>Name of Clinically Responsible Doctor (CRD)/contract holder: _____</p> <p>MCR/NMBI: _____</p> <p>Name of Clinically Responsible Doctor: _____</p> <p>Date of Signature: _____</p> <p>Clinical Supervisor Name if different to CRD: _____</p> <p>MCR/NMBI: _____</p> <p>CRD/CRD Email: _____</p> <p>The following <b>mandatory requirement</b> must be completed and will be verified in order for a person to be deemed eligible to act as a supervisor for the trainee.</p> <p>I confirm that I have completed the Cervical Screening Education Programme. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Or</p> <p>I confirm I have completed the two clinical updates on NBS resources. <input type="checkbox"/> Please attach certificates of completion.</p> <p>Signature of CRD: _____</p> <p><b>Privacy Notice:</b> The personal details that you provide will be kept on file within the Screening Training Unit (STU) to enable us to facilitate your participation in the Cervical Screening Education Programme and your registration as a CervicalCheck sampletaker. It will not be used for any other purposes. If you have any questions about how your personal data is processed or to exercise your rights under the GDPR please contact <a href="mailto:stuc@stuc.ie">stuc@stuc.ie</a></p>

## Reminder: correct demographic details

Since the beginning of 2024, we have seen an increase in patient detail mix-ups on cervical screening forms received to the laboratory, including forms containing demographic details that belongs to at least two women. Please check all demographic details on the form including surname at birth and mother's maiden name with women when they attend for cervical screening, particularly where there are women with similar names on your practice management system. Women with the same or similar names can be flagged on most practice management IT systems to avoid selection of the wrong person or mix-up of demographic details.

## Vial expiration

Please note the upcoming 2024 vial batch expiry dates, as follows:

Product	Lot Number	Expiry Date	Remove from stock
Vial	2186BE	14/06/2024	03/05/2024
Vial	2269AA	26/09/2024	15/08/2024

These vials should be reviewed as expiry dates near. Payment will not issue for tests submitted to the programme laboratory in expired vials. Samples may also have to be destroyed and tests repeated. The vial ID sticker must be placed by the requesting sample taker on the cervical screening form.

Please also be aware that when the expiry date on the new purple Hologic vial (silver text) is covered with an addressograph label, it cannot be read. If the expiry date is obscured by a patient label, the manufacturers' lot numbers are an alternative way to confirm the expiry date. If neither the expiry date nor the lot number are visible (obscured by a label), the sample will be destroyed.

## Schedule of learning events: July - December 2024

As our schedule of learning events takes a pause for the summer, it provides the perfect opportunity to watch back on the recordings of previous webinars available [here](#). We are continuing lunchtime webinars into winter 2024. For more information about July - December dates and topics, please see [here](#).

JULY 2024	SPEAKER	DATE AND TIME	LINK TO REGISTER
Expertise from Colposcopy: A deep dive into the cervix	Dr Matt Hewitt, Consultant Gynaecological Oncologist, Cork University Maternity Hospital.	Tuesday 02nd July 2024. 1-2pm	<a href="#">Click here to register</a>
SEPTEMBER 2024	SPEAKER	DATE AND TIME	LINK TO REGISTER
Female Genital Mutilation: Identifying and Supporting FGM Survivors within Cervical Check	Ms Hope Turner: Migrant Women's Health Officer	Tuesday 10th September 2024. 1-2pm	<a href="#">Click here to register</a>

## Contact us

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