

HPV CERVICAL SCREENING NEWSLETTER

Sept 2024

Programme Updates

CervicalCheck Conference 2024: registration open

We are looking forward to welcoming you at our CervicalCheck conference in Limerick on Saturday 19 October. You can [register here](#) and information on conference accreditation and recognition is available [here](#). Please note this conference is accredited by the NMBI and ICGP, and will be recognised as a CervicalCheck Clinical Update.



The conference is free to attend and a light lunch will be served. Spaces are limited so please register soon. If you have registered and can't now attend, please [let us know](#) so your place can be made available to a colleague.

The theme of the conference is ***Fostering partnerships in cervical screening***, and speakers and delegates will come together to discuss global and national advances in all areas of the cervical screening pathway, and the global movement to eliminate cervical cancer. The full conference programme is available [here](#).

We are delighted to be bringing colleagues together from across the CervicalCheck pathway to share learning. We'll be highlighting new initiatives and learning taking place across the pathway in a poster presentation session. We have extended the submission deadline for the presentation session to Friday, 27 September. We encourage posters to align with the following themes:

- Quality Improvement
- Fostering Partnerships
- Promoting Equity.

Don't miss this opportunity to join with colleagues in the CervicalCheck community on this day. [Register](#) to join us at the CervicalCheck Conference 2024. We look forward to welcoming you to Limerick for a cornerstone event in the global conversation on cervical cancer prevention and screening.

Reminder: electronic referral between GPs and colposcopy clinics nationally

Direct electronic referral from practice management systems to hospital colposcopy units via Healthlink is now available for practices referring to:

- University Hospital Kerry
- North East Regional Hospital Louth
- Rotunda Hospital Dublin
- Wexford General Hospital

Please do not use paper referrals for these units. Electronic referral can prevent delays for screening participants, ensure a robust referral process, and optimise use of resources.

How to use electronic referral: Attach the cervical screening test result to the electronic referral. This information is required by the colposcopy unit to triage the referral and issue an appointment within agreed waiting times. If there is no result attached, it will be returned to you.

We are implementing electronic referral across all colposcopy units. We will provide further updates in the coming months.

Contact support.healthlink@healthmail.ie & support.healthlink@hse.ie if you need help with the electronic referral.

Quality standards in cervical screening

- ***Patients are not responsible for posting their own screening samples***

Contracted doctors and clinics are responsible for dispatching cervical screening samples to programme laboratories. This obligation is outlined in our contract, and in line with Standard 3-5 – dispatch of samples in the Standards for Quality Assurance in Cervical Screening Quality Assurance in Primary Care and Other Cervical Screening Settings.

Asking patients to post their own cervical screening samples presents a risk to those patients, including:

- Delays in posting the sample
- The sample not being posted
- Incorrect storage of the sample
- No visibility of samples issued by the practice for reconciliation purposes

If you have asked people attending for CervicalCheck screening to post their own samples, you should reimburse the cost of the postage to them. Please ensure that all CervicalCheck screening samples are dispatched to the laboratory by the practice or clinic in the transport boxes provided by CervicalCheck, within 3 days of conducting the cervical screening test.

- **Repeat tests are necessary if vials are sent to laboratory without cervical screening form**

Several sample vials have been delivered to the designated laboratory without cervical screening forms over the last 3 months. Samples delivered without forms cannot be processed.

Our laboratories hold samples for six weeks from the test date. After six weeks, the sample has expired.

Please inform your staff that they must ensure that a signed cervical screening form accompanies each sample submitted to the laboratory.



Introducing the New Cervical Screening Protocol and Quality Assurance Audit Tool

We are pleased to announce the launch of our [Cervical Screening Protocol Template](#) [Delivering cervical screening within a primary care practice or in non-primary care setting](#) and its accompanying [Quality Assurance Audit Tool](#).

These resources provide a template you can adapt to enhance the delivery of cervical screening services within primary care practices or non-primary care settings.

You can find more about the benefits of using the Cervical Screening Protocol and Audit Tool and the benefits of it [here](#).

Cervical Screening Practice Protocol

<<insert name of Practice>>

Delivering cervical screening within a primary care practice or in non-primary care settings

Cervical Screening Protocol

Audience: All staff involved in delivering a cervical screening service

Adapted By: <<insert name>>	Date developed:
Approved by:<<insert name>>	Date approved:
Implementation date:	Review date:

Responsible person for implementation:

Designated person must ensure all involved in cervical screening in the practice have read, understood and agreed to adhere to the protocol.

Reducing cancer risk: screening eLearning module

Interested in learning more about how screening reduces cancer risk? The National Cancer Control Platform (NCCP) developed an e-learning module for health and social care professionals. You can find the course by searching for ‘reducing cancer risk’ in the search box at hseand.ie

LGBTQI+ terminology guide

A new HSE [leaflet](#) is available on LGBTQI+ terminology you may find useful in your practice. You can find out more about National Screening Service’s LGBTQI+ resources [here](#).



Vial expiration

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

Product	Lot Number	Expiry Date	Remove from stock
Vial	2269AA	26/09/2024	Immediately
Vial	3039BA	08/02/2025	21/12/2024
Vial	3172AA	21/06/2025	10/05/2025
Vial	3269AA	25/09/2025	14/08/2025
Vial	4045BA	14/02/2026	03/01/2026
Vial	4109BA	18/04/2026	07/03/2026

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

We are continuing our lunchtime webinars into winter 2024. For more information about July - December dates and topics, please see [here](#). You can watch back on the recordings of previous webinars available [here](#).

October 2024	Speaker	Date and Time
Exploring common themes in patient feedback to identify improvement opportunities to the provision of a quality cervical screening service	Laura Tobin, Deputy Manager, CervicalCheck	Wednesday 02 nd October 2024. 1-2pm
November 2024	Speaker	Date and Time
Promoting sexual wellbeing: encouraging open conversations	Prof Fiona Lyons Consultant in Genitourinary Medicine, HSE Clinical Lead in Sexual Health.	Wednesday 13 th November

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[#choosescreening](#)

