

HPV CERVICAL SCREENING NEWSLETTER

Nov 2024

Programme Updates

CervicalCheck Conference 2024: Fostering partnerships in cervical screening

We were delighted to welcome our partners in cervical screening to our conference in Limerick city recently.

Opening the conference, CervicalCheck Programme Manager Gráinne Gleeson highlighted that this was the first time that partners across the screening programme have come together for a day of learning, discussion, collaboration and reflection - based on our theme 'Fostering partnerships in cervical screening'. We welcomed many of our partners from primary care services, along with colleagues from colposcopy, histology laboratories, our two screening laboratories and our international guest speakers.

You can read more about the day on our [website](#) including one of the standout moments of the conference, which was the introduction of [a new video featuring women sharing their experiences of CervicalCheck](#) and what it means to them.



Pictured at #CervicalCheck2024, with our laboratory partners from Quest Diagnostics and the National Cervical Screening Laboratory, at the back, from left: Karen Locke, Dr Corrina Wright, Randy Herderson, Gráinne Gleeson, Ed Saah, Syzmon Dylo, Dr Síne Phelan, and Brad Davis. Front, from left: Aisling O'Connor and Professor Nóirín Russell

More photos from the CervicalCheck Conference 2024: Fostering partnerships in cervical screening



Pictured at #CervicalCheck2024, From left to right: Jessica Dillon and Gillian Healy - The Keogh Practice, Waterford, Gwen McAuliffe - Charleville Medical Centre, Maria Mullins - Medi Clinics.

Pictured at #CervicalCheck2024, from left to right: Mags Bourke - UHC, Susan Foley - UHK, Noreen O'Connor - UHK.



Pictured at #CervicalCheck2024, from left to right: Aedín Shiels - CervicalCheck, Niamh Quinn - CervicalCheck, Christine McCarthy - MedHub, Cork.

Sampletaking and seasonal post

As we come to the end of 2024 we are asking you, where possible, to post cervical screening samples by **Friday December 20**, to ensure their delivery is not affected by the increased pressures on An Post over Christmas.

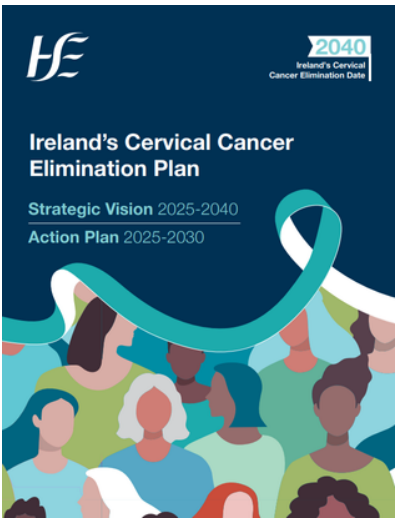
When taking samples, please be mindful of the extra time they may take to reach laboratories over the festive period. This includes ensuring that the sample vial has at least 42 days left before its expiry date. Normal postage resumes from **Friday 27 December**.



Launch of Ireland's Action Plan to eliminate cervical cancer

Ireland has set a vision for 2040: to make cervical cancer rare in every community. This will be achieved through the joint effort of the HSE's vaccination, cervical screening, colposcopy and acute services, in partnership with communities. On 15 November, the HSE's Action Plan was launched at an event attended by stakeholders including colleagues from colposcopy and the National Cancer Screening Laboratory.

Read more about Ireland's ambitious vision for 2040.



Prof N  r  n Russell signing the Cervical Cancer Elimination pledge to make cervical cancer rare in every community on behalf of CervicalCheck.

Members of the Strategic and Delivery Groups to eliminate cervical cancer in Ireland .



Colposcopists, ANP and members of the CervicalCheck team attending the launch of the Cervical Cancer Elimination Action Plan.

New research reveals how different age groups in Ireland view cervical screening

Our recent online survey of 808 women aged 25 to 65 reveals how views on cervical screening vary by age. It found that older women view cervical screening as ‘very important’ and younger women have more knowledge gaps than older women. You can read more [here](#).



Avoid return addresses on vial transport boxes

Please do not affix your clinic’s address as the return address on sample vial transport boxes. This can lead to delays in the samples reaching the laboratory.

Vial transport boxes supplied by Screenlink Ltd. are pre-labelled with the name and address of your designated laboratory.

The return address in cases of non-delivery to labs is Screenlink Ltd. Transport boxes containing cervical screening samples are returned to Screenlink and dispatched to the appropriate designated laboratory.

Vial expiration

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

Product	Lot Number	Expiry Date
Vial	3039BA	08/02/2025
Vial	3172AA	21/06/2025
Vial	3269AA	25/09/2025

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.

Data quality on cervical screening forms

It is essential to complete **all** of the demographic detail fields on the cervical screening form and have them checked by the person attending for cervical screening before they sign the form.

There are approximately 1.3 million active unique records on the Cervical Screening Register (CSR) in CervicalCheck. 947 profiles on CSR have Mary as a first name and Murphy as a surname. 77 of those share a date of birth with at least one other Mary Murphy, which shows why having all the demographic information is important.

As well as the PPS number and CSP ID, please complete the surname at birth and mother's maiden name fields on the cervical screening form to allow unique identification of each individual woman. 21 demographic detail mix ups on cervical screening forms have been identified and resolved in 2024. In the majority of cases, the samples could not be processed and the women involved had to have repeat tests.

Repeat tests required due to sample vials sent to laboratory without cervical screening forms

Seven sample vials have been delivered to the designated laboratory without cervical screening forms since June 2024. The practices where the tests were taken have been identified for five of the samples, neither the woman nor the practice could be identified for one sample and the investigation is ongoing for the seventh sample.

Samples delivered without forms cannot be processed. Laboratories hold samples for six weeks from the test date until the sample reaches expiry. Please inform your staff that they must ensure that a completed and signed cervical screening form accompanies each sample submitted to the laboratory. CervicalCheck recommends that a second person checks samples vs forms in the transport box, before the box is dispatched.

Share your opinions on cervical cancer screening awareness campaigns

Sophie Mulcahy Symmons, a PhD researcher at University College Dublin (UCD), is conducting research on cervical screening awareness. The project is funded by the Irish Cancer Society and aims to develop campaigns to promote cervical screening awareness among groups of women who are less likely to take part in cervical screening. You can take part in a focus group discussion or an interview either in person or online. The research will take place at the end of November and early December.

Please contact Sophie by email (Sophie.mulcahysymmons@ucdconnect.ie) or by phone (089 211 5624) if you are interested in taking part. You can also fill out this expression of interest form (<https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/Y57BWKH>).

Accessible cervical screening information - updated languages

We have updated created new accessible cervical screening information easy reads for cervical screening and colposcopy in Arabic.

You can find these resources [here](#) alongside other accessible cervical screening information.



Don't forget to follow us on X [@NSShse](#) and [LinkedIn](#) to get all your up-to-date information.
[#choosescreening](#)



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](#).

December 2024	Speaker	Date and Time	Link to Register
The backbone of Screening: Public Health's guiding role in advancing CervicalCheck Practice	Dr Caroline Mason Mohan – Director of Public Health, NSS	Wed 04 th December. 1-2pm	Click here to register



Contact us

Email: info@cervicalcheck.ie
Freephone: 1800 45 45 55
Website: hse.ie/cervicalcheck
Post: CervicalCheck, Freepost LK407, Limerick.

Primary Care Coordinator

Email: primarycarecoordinator@cervicalcheck.ie
Telephone: 061 406 547 or 061 406 567

Access queries

Email: access@cervicalcheck.ie