

# HPV CERVICAL SCREENING NEWSLETTER

May 2025

## Programme Updates

In January, we wrote to you about a change to the timing of 5-year recall letters which were due to issue in August and September this year. Following the success of that initiative, which has been very well received by women, we are continuing this initiative into a second phase.

Throughout May 2025 we will be issuing screening invitations to women who are due to be invited in October and November 2025 for their five-year recall.

Steps you can take to support access to cervical screening in 2025:

1. Support your patients, who may have questions about why they are being called before their five-year return date.
2. Consider altering your recall settings on your practice management software to set the 5-year recall for women who are due to be called in October and November to an earlier date. We know that women often rely on reminders or notifications from their practice to book their next screening test.

We will monitor the success of this ongoing initiative and we may continue it for a third phase for women due to be invited in late 2025 and into 2026. If you have any questions, please contact [info@cervicalcheck.ie](mailto:info@cervicalcheck.ie)

## Updated website information

We have recently updated our information on the [CervicalCheck website](https://www.cervicalcheck.ie). If a woman is trying to conceive or is going through fertility treatment, she can have her cervical screening test if it is due. Women do not need early or extra screening if they are not due a test.



### Important information about your 2025 cervical screening invitation

#### Why we are inviting you now

More women than usual will be due their cervical screening test in late 2025 and 2026.

#### This is because:

- we changed to HPV cervical screening in March 2020. This meant we could extend the time between cervical screening tests to five years for all women aged 30 to 65.
- we paused cervical screening invitations for four months in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### What you need to know

- We are inviting you and other women who are due to be called in October and November this year to book your cervical screening test now.
- It is safe and effective to do your cervical screening test now.
- You can book your cervical screening test with any GP or women's clinic registered with CervicalCheck. Find a list at [www.hse.ie/cervicalcheck](https://www.hse.ie/cervicalcheck).
- We have told GPs and women's clinics that we are changing the timing of invitations this year.
- We can help if you have questions. Contact us by email [info@cervicalcheck.ie](mailto:info@cervicalcheck.ie) or Freephone 1800 45 45 55.

#### Why book now?

By booking now, you can help us make sure that you, and all women who are due their cervical screening this year, can get timely access to a screening test, test results, and any follow up treatment needed at colposcopy.



CS/PUB/CC-76 Rev 2

## Expired vials piece

During quarter 1, we saw an increase in samples being submitted to the laboratories in expired vials.

Your stock of vials must be reviewed regularly, particularly when expiry dates are approaching (see table below).

Payment will not be issued for tests submitted in expired vials and samples in expired vials are destroyed. The sample result is recorded as 'test not processed' with a 3-month repeat recommendation. Please note the upcoming 2025 vial batch expiry dates, as follows:

Product	Lot Number	Expiry Date on Vial	Remove from stock by:
Vial	3172AA	21/06/25	10/05/25
Vial	3269AA	25/09/25	14/08/25

## Recording consent on the Cervical Screening Form

CervicalCheck's programme laboratory, Quest Diagnostics, has reported an increase of 33.86% in submission of cervical screening forms without signed consent in Q1 2025 compared to Q4 2024.

Each time a woman has a cervical screening test, she is asked to give her consent by signing a cervical screening form before her test. If she cannot sign the form, she is asked to give her consent verbally or by making a mark on the form in front of a doctor or nurse.

By signing her consent, the woman agrees that she:

- has been told about cervical screening and its benefits and limitations
- understands this information
- has checked that her name, address and other details are correct
- allows CervicalCheck to receive, hold and exchange her personal information and screening history with those who deliver the HPV cervical screening programme.

When an unsigned cervical screening form is submitted to a laboratory, staff return a copy of the cervical screening form to the practice for signature/ evidence of consent and hold the sample.

If there is no response after 5 days, laboratory staff contact the practice again. If there is no response after 10 days, laboratory staff return both form and sample to the practice.

## Driving improvement in our CervicalCheck programme: new revision of quality assurance standards in laboratories published

We've published a new revision of our standards for quality assurance in laboratories providing HPV testing, cytology and histopathology services to CervicalCheck. This revision updates the quality standards and requirements against which our laboratories are assessed. It takes into account existing guidelines within laboratory medicine including ISO accreditation standards, Royal College of Pathology guidelines and other international screening programmes.



An tArdánas Náisiúna Slághairde  
National Screening Service

### Welcome to our new Lead Colposcopy Advisor

Dr Rosie Harkin joined CervicalCheck in March 2025 as the new Colposcopy Clinical Advisor for the service.

Rosie will have a key role in liaising with the colposcopy community and will be charged with updating the Clinical Standards for the Colposcopy Service. She will also have a lead role in maintaining the quality assurance of colposcopy in cervical screening. Working closing with the Cervical Cancer Elimination partnership, Rosie will be working on our targets to achieve Cervical Cancer Elimination by 2040.

She will also be working closely with the Women and Infants Health Programme and Acute Services in managing and developing the colposcopy service in the context of the changes and challenges after 5 years of HPV cervical screening. Welcome Rosie!

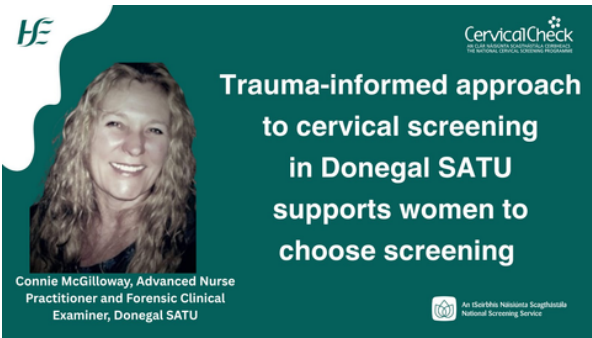
As Rosie begins her new role, we would like to thank Dr Johnny Price for all his help and guidance to the programme since 2020. Best of luck in your retirement Dr Price!



## Some recent blogs...

Click on the link below to read some of our recent blogs that may be helpful for you

- [CervicalCheck age range explained](#)
- [A trauma-informed approach to cervical screening in Donegal SATU supports women to choose screening](#)
- [CervicalCheck supports trauma-informed cervical screening at Limerick Female Prison](#)



Keeping up with the latest social media trends, we have joined Bluesky, in addition to X (@NSShse) and LinkedIn. If you've joined Bluesky, make sure to follow us: @nsshse.

#choosescreening



## Schedule of learning events: Jan - Jun 2025



### Lunch & Learn webinar

#### Screening women over 50



Tuesday 13 May 2025



1pm to 2pm



An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Scaghdhála  
National Screening Service



We are continuing our lunchtime webinars into summer 2025. For more information about January - June dates and topics, please [see here](#). You can watch back on the recordings of previous webinars available [here](#).

May 2025	Speaker	Date & Time	Link to register
Screening women over 50 <b>CervicalCheck Clinical Update</b>	Dr Sarah Fitzgibbon, Primary care advisor	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2025 1-2pm	<a href="#">Click here to register</a>
June 2025	Speaker	Date & Time	Link to register
Cervical Screening Troubleshooting: Tackling Common Challenges in Primary Care	Dr Rachael Comer Ms Laura Tobin Dr Sarah Fitzgibbon, Primary care advisor	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2025 1-2pm	<a href="#">Click here to register</a>

## Contact us

Email: [info@cervicalcheck.ie](mailto:info@cervicalcheck.ie)

Freephone: 1800 45 45 55

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### Primary Care Coordinator

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### Access queries

Email: [access@cervicalcheck.ie](mailto:access@cervicalcheck.ie)