

Guidance Note 10

Cervical screening post-pelvic radiotherapy

Radiotherapy is used on its own or combined with surgery and/or chemotherapy for the treatment of cervical, bladder, rectal and other pelvic cancers.

It may be difficult to pass a speculum due to narrowing, obliteration and/or ulceration of the cervix and the vagina¹.

In addition, cell samples may be difficult to interpret post radiotherapy.

Cervical screening is not recommended for women who have had pelvic radiotherapy.

What should a doctor do?

The screening programme should be notified that a woman is to be ceased from the programme by sending a completed and signed *Cervical Screening Not Advised* form to CervicalCheck.

The *Cervical Screening Not Advised* form together with the associated *Guidance Note 12 - Participation, Consent and Ceasing Participation* are available in the Health professionals section of the CervicalCheck website (www.cervicalcheck.ie).

References:

1. NHSCSP Publication 20: Guidelines for commissioners, providers and programme managers, for providing the NHS cervical screening service. Mar 2016.
-

For further information:

1. Association between Human Papillomavirus Infection and Cytological Abnormalities during early Follow-Up of Invasive Cervical Cancer - *Journal of Medical Virology* 84:1115–1119 (2012)
 2. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/cervical-cancer/>
 3. European Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Cervical Cancer Screening – Second Edition
-

*Please note, throughout this document, where we refer to 'women', we mean 'women, or people with a cervix'.