

# Guidance Note 10

## Cervical screening post-pelvic radiotherapy

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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 is difficult to both obtain and accurately report on cervical cell samples from women who have undergone radiotherapy for pelvic cancers due to marked morphologic alterations which include narrowing, obliteration and ulceration of the cervix and the vagina<sup>1</sup>.

Cervical or vault cytology does not assist in the detection of asymptomatic recurrence of cervical cancer after hysterectomy or radiotherapy<sup>2</sup>.

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

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### 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](http://www.cervicalcheck.ie)).

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### References:

1. NHSCSP Publication 20: Guidelines for commissioners, providers and programme managers, for providing the NHS cervical screening service. Mar 2016.
  2. Bodurka-Bevers D, Morris M, Eifel PJ, et al. (2004) Post therapy surveillance of women with cervical cancer: an outcomes analysis. *Gynecol Oncol*, 78, 187-93.
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### 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. Lancashire and South Cumbria Cancer Network – Cervix Cancer Guidelines - Oct 2011
  3. <http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/cancer-of-the-cervix>
  4. <http://www.christie.nhs.uk/>
  5. European Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Cervical Cancer Screening – Second Edition
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