



CervicalCheck
King's Inn House,
Parnell St,
Dublin 1.

May 9th 2018.

Dear Colleague,

Further to our letter of the 2nd of May 2018, we are writing today to all GPs with updated advice and information regarding CervicalCheck.

- The clinical advice is that the cervical check programme is safe and effective, and that the three laboratories contracted to the programme are operating within expected international standards.
- Our clinical advice is that all women should continue to participate in the cervical screening programme according to their normal schedule based on their screening history.
- While an urgent new screening test is not clinically indicated by the circumstances, due to the worry created by the CervicalCheck Audit, women have been advised that they can seek appropriate support and advice from their GP. If following that consultation they have specific indications or remain concerned, they may also access a new, free screening test.

For GPs the consultation and the smear test will constitute two distinct clinical transactions and therefore attract two separate fees. Here are the reimbursement arrangements for GPs that will apply.

Consultation

It has been agreed that GPs will receive a fee of €50.00 for the consultation. In submitting a claim for payment of the consultation fee the GP must obtain and submit verification from the patient that the consultation was provided. The claim should contain the woman's medical card or GP visit card number where applicable, and for women who do not hold either of these cards, the HSE asks that her PPSN be included on the claim form instead. The HSE is seeking legal advice on the use of the PPSN for this process, and advice from the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner.

Technical details of the reimbursement arrangements including access to claim forms will issue in the coming days from the HSE's Primary Care Reimbursement Service. In the meantime GPs can be assured that they will receive reimbursement for all valid consultation claims submitted by them in accordance with the above arrangement.

Smear Test

In addition to the Consultation Fee the GP will receive the current standard fee of €49.10 for all smear tests carried out in accordance with the arrangements set out under the National Cervical Screening Programme contract for service.

The effectiveness of these overall arrangements will be reviewed following three months post introduction to assess, inter alia, their overall impact including that on capacity of GP services etc.

The overall situation in relation to the audit remains under review and the best source for up to date clinical information is the cervicalcheck website at www.cervicalcheck.ie – please chose the link for Health Professionals. An updated Q&A page for health professionals, echoing the messages being provided to women on our information line, has been published there today. A copy of the FAQ is attached for ease of reference.

The HSE and the National Screening Service would like to thank all GP colleagues and all health care professionals for their ongoing support in this difficult situation, and for their continued work to offer support and reassurance to the women who are understandably concerned. We also hope to have your support in the future as we undertake the work of rebuilding confidence in this important public health programme.

With thanks and best regards,

Damien McCallion,

National Director, National Screening Service

Dr. Jerome Coffey,

Director, National Cancer Control Programme