

What is a colposcopy?

A colposcopy is a detailed examination of the cervix that is carried out in a hospital out-patient clinic. The doctor or nurse in the clinic will look at your cervix using a type of microscope. This does not go inside you. A visit to a CervicalCheck colposcopy clinic is free of charge. For more information about a colposcopy, talk to your doctor or nurse or visit www.cervicalcheck.ie.

You should always follow the advice that CervicalCheck gives you.



About your smear test result



Feedback and contact information

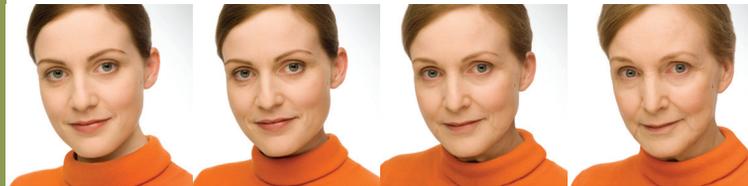
CervicalCheck welcomes your feedback.

Email: info@cervicalcheck.ie

Freephone: 1800 45 45 55

Website: www.cervicalcheck.ie

Post: CervicalCheck, Freepost LK407, Limerick



Cervical screening saves lives.

How will I get the result of my smear test?

CervicalCheck sends you a letter to let you know when the result of your smear test is available from the doctor or nurse who took the test.

What do the results mean?

In most cases, smear tests do not show any changes in the cells of the cervix (the neck of the womb) and the result is negative.

In some cases, smear tests show changes in the cells of the cervix. These changes are common and most are caused by a virus called the human papillomavirus (HPV). HPV is a common virus usually spread by skin-to-skin contact during sexual activity. If you have ever engaged in sexual activity, you were probably exposed to HPV. Most HPV infections clear up on their own but the virus can stay without symptoms for many years.

If changes are found in the cells of the cervix, they can be low grade or high grade.

Low grade changes are common and most clear up on their own. If low grade changes are found, a second test for certain types of HPV infection will be done.

If high grade changes are found, these are less likely to clear up on their own and you will need a more detailed examination called a colposcopy. A colposcopy is free of charge and the doctor or nurse who took your smear test will arrange it for you.

What does the advice in my letter mean?

1. My next smear test is due in three or five years (routine screening)

This means that either no cell changes were found in your smear test or that minor cell changes were found but your HPV test was negative, so there is no cause for worry. You will have your next smear test in three or five years, depending on your age. This is known as routine screening. CervicalCheck will write to you to let you know when your next test is due.

2. My next smear test is due before three years

You may need to have smear tests more often if:

- you have attended a colposcopy clinic in the past;
- your medical history recommends more frequent screening; or
- the laboratory was not able to read your smear test sample.

You must wait for three months from the date of your last smear test. This is to allow the cells of the cervix to grow back.

3. I have been asked to contact the doctor or nurse for my smear test result

You may need to have a colposcopy for a more detailed examination of your cervix. This is free of charge and the doctor or nurse who took your test can give you more information and arrange your colposcopy for you.

Your smear test may have shown minor cell changes and some HPV infection was found. The colposcopy will show if you need a simple treatment or not.

If your smear test shows high grade changes, you may need a simple treatment to remove the cells. This treatment can be done in the colposcopy clinic.