



Guidance on Supporting Women with Disabilities to Use the Cervical Screening Programme

CervicalCheck has prepared a set of resources to assist women with intellectual disabilities to use our Cervical Screening Programme.

These resources can be used in conjunction with our leaflets on:

- The Benefits and Harms of Screening
- Giving Consent for Screening Programmes
- Looking after your information at the National Screening Service.

These resources were developed with experts by experience – women with intellectual disabilities, and their support staff.

The resources may be helpful to other women too, for example, women with English as a second language, or women with communication or literacy support needs.

The resources are targeted at different stages of the screening process, so you will need to decide which are relevant and appropriate to the individual you are supporting.

Easy to Read and Plain English resources may not be suitable for everyone. They require a person to have a level of symbolic understanding if they are to be meaningful. You may need to adapt and personalise these resources to suit the person you are supporting.

Resource 1 - About Cervical Screening: This is an Easy to Read leaflet explaining CervicalCheck, cervical cancer and cervical screening. It gives brief information on having a cervical screening test. This leaflet is designed to be an introduction to the screening process. It is most relevant to women at the start of their journey with CervicalCheck.

Resource 2 - About Cervical Screening – Plain English version: This is a version of Resource 1 for women that prefer information without images.

Resource 3 - Going for a cervical screening test – A Photo Story: This is a photo story which takes you through the experience of having a cervical screening test, from making an appointment to attendance. It explains each stage in detail with photos of real people in real environments. It is designed to support women that receive an invitation letter from CervicalCheck and want to know more about having this test. The aim is to reduce anxiety by providing clear information about the things that are important to persons with disabilities.

Resource 4 - Going for a cervical screening test – A Plain English Story: This is a version of Resource 3 for women that prefer information without images.

Resource 5 - Going for a cervical screening test – the video: This is a simple video which reiterates the information in the photo story. It is designed to support women who prefer to have information in this format.

Resource 6 - I need more tests – Having a Colposcopy: This is a short, Easy to Read guide for women that require a colposcopy after their cervical screening test. It explains what happens next. It is for women who do not receive a normal result after their cervical screening test.

Resource 7 - I need more tests – Having a Colposcopy – Plain English version: This is a version of Resource 6 for women that prefer information without images.

Resource 8 - Going for a Colposcopy – A Photo Story: This is a photo story which takes you through the experience of having a colposcopy, from receipt of results letter to attendance at the hospital. It explains each stage in detail with photos of real people in real environments. It is designed to support women that need this test and want to know what will happen next. The aim is to reduce anxiety by providing clear information about the things that are important to persons with disabilities.

Resource 9 - Going for a Colposcopy – A Plain English Story: This is a version of Resource 8 for women that prefer information without images.

Resource 10 - Blank templates: This is a set of blank templates, one for the Easy to Read leaflet and one for the photo story. It allows you to add personalised information into the resources if the individual you are supporting would benefit from this. For example, you could insert a page with information about the person's G.P. or images of your local clinic/hospital. You could add a photo or information about who will support the person or how they might relax after a test or procedure.