

# HPV CERVICAL SCREENING NEWSLETTER

January 2020

Colleagues,

I am delighted to issue the first HPV cervical screening newsletter as the new Interim Clinical Director with CervicalCheck.

As Director of Public Health at the National Screening Service since 2018, I must commend the dedication of the staff in Limerick, and extend our gratitude to our colleagues in general practice, colposcopy services, laboratories, histopathology, cytology and all those involved in the implementation and support of the CervicalCheck programme, for their support, energy and enthusiasm.

This newsletter was instigated by CervicalCheck's outgoing Clinical Director, Dr Lorraine Doherty, as a valuable way of keeping in touch during HPV cervical screening implementation. Lorraine has displayed a strong commitment to improving women's health during her tenure at CervicalCheck.

"I wish the programme well and want to assure you I will continue to work alongside Caroline in February to ensure a smooth transition for the service," Lorraine said.

We are now planning for the introduction of HPV cervical screening and I will be in touch with you over the coming weeks with key information and dates.



Dr Caroline Mason Mohan  
Interim Clinical Director  
(Public Health)  
CervicalCheck

## We want to meet you

We want to update you on the planned changes to cervical screening in Ireland.

Join us at our HPV cervical screening education sessions for healthcare professionals in Primary Care.

Book online at:

[hpvcervicalscreeningevents.eventbrite.ie](http://hpvcervicalscreeningevents.eventbrite.ie)

Once through to booking page, please use the password HPV2020.

More sessions are planned in the coming weeks.

Locations include:

- January 29th Cork Silversprings Hotel
- January 30th Kilkenny Hotel, Kilkenny
- February 4th Dublin Aisling Hotel
- February 5th Athone Sheraton Hotel
- February 6th Galway Galmont Hotel
- February 11th Limerick Radisson
- February 12th Dublin Talbot Hotel, Stillorgan
- February 13th Sligo Radisson

# Welcome to the new CervicalCheck Lead Colposcopy Advisor

Dr John Price joined CervicalCheck in December 2019 as the Lead Colposcopy Advisor for the service. John will have a key role in liaising with the colposcopy community, and will be charged with establishing a new colposcopy forum this year. In addition to this, John will have a lead role in maintaining the quality assurance of colposcopy in cervical screening. He will work with the Women and Infants Health Programme and Acute Services in managing the colposcopy workload in relation to the introduction of HPV cervical screening.



Dr John Price  
Lead Colposcopy Advisor

Welcome John!

## Importance of cervical screening

Since 2008:

- more than 3 million screening tests have been carried out by CervicalCheck
- the number of women who develop cervical cancer has fallen
- over 115,000 cases of abnormal cervical cells have been detected, many of which could have developed into cancer if not detected and treated through screening.



Sarah Barrett  
@\_Splink\_

Follow

Just did my 100th smear as a practice nurse. Not a huge amount compared to other nurses/clinics but still proud. Caught 1 case of cervical cancer and a handful of abnormalities that needed treatment. Screening programmes aint perfect, but they're good.  
[#cervicalcheck](#) [#smearstest](#)

3:46 PM - 15 Oct 2019 from Fingal, Ireland

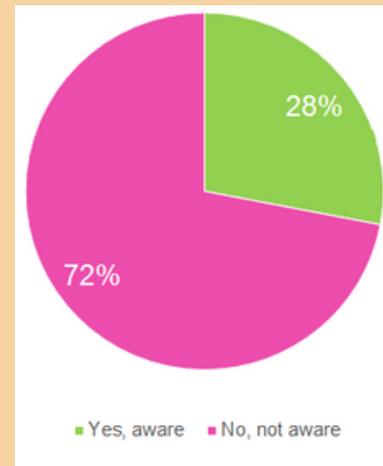
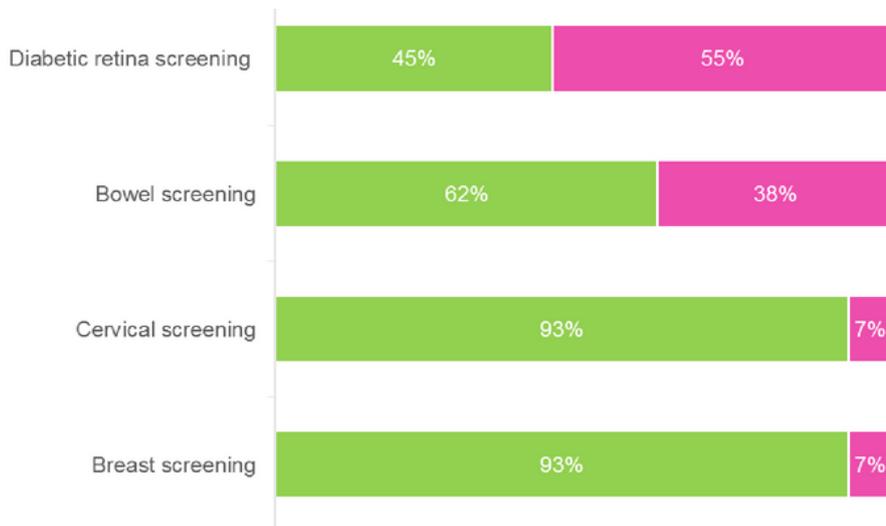


# What women know about screening

To help us design and develop an information campaign on HPV cervical screening we conducted market research, asking a representative audience of 1,000 women about a range of topics related to cervical screening. These included:

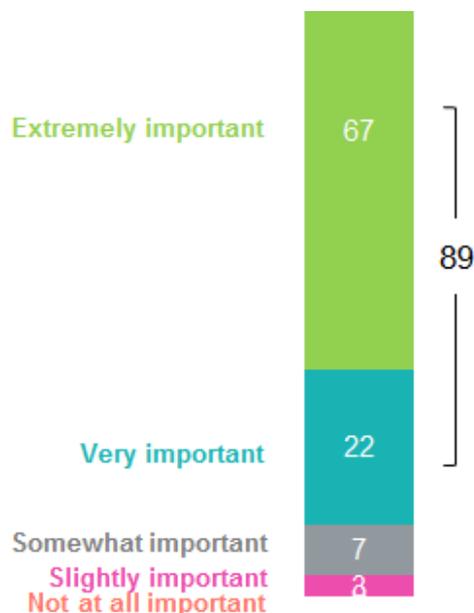
- awareness & understanding of screening
- awareness & understanding of cervical cancer
- awareness and understanding of HPV virus
- preferred information sources.

## Awareness and understanding of cervical screening is almost universal:



Just under 3/10 women are aware a new HPV cervical screening test is to be introduced. Awareness is highest among 25- to 44-year-olds.

The research highlighted that 9/10 women feel it is important to go for regular cervical screening



## Trusted sources of information

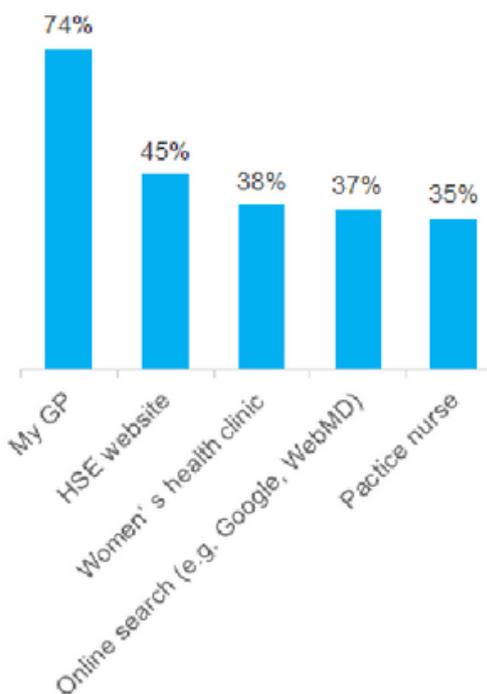
The research showed that GPs are the most trusted source of information for the majority of women. They are followed by the HSE website, health clinics, online searches and practice nurses.

The majority of women (9/10) feel it is important to go for regular screening and 7/10 of women are aware they still need to go for cervical screening after receiving the vaccine.

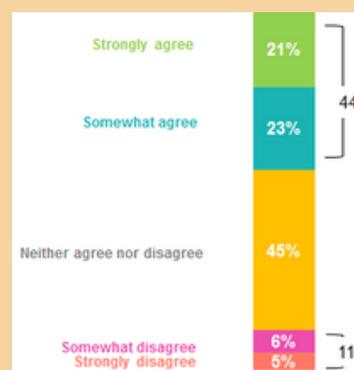
We learned that there was a range of topics where women require further information; specifically, HPV and cervical cancer, and the symptoms to look out for.

The majority of women are aware that cervical screening is a way of detecting abnormal cells in the cervix. However, some misconceptions exist around the purpose of cervical screening, and that screening is a diagnostic test.

This research is a follow-on from a 2018 Core survey. We have taken the learnings from both the 2018 and 2019 qualitative and quantitative market research to guide us in the development of new web content for [hse.ie/cervicalcheck](https://hse.ie/cervicalcheck), and on new letters and information leaflets for women. More detail on your newly-designed information and advertising campaign will follow in next month's newsletter.



Are you more likely to go for cervical screening as a result of the new HPV screening service?



Though only 3/10 women were aware of the introduction of HPV cervical screening, 4/10 women who don't attend, said the new screening method will encourage them to attend.

## Contact us

### CervicalCheck

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