

# HPV CERVICAL SCREENING NEWSLETTER

January 2023

## Coombe laboratory update

As you have been aware, cervical screening samples from practices have been processed solely by one of our programme laboratories (Quest Diagnostics). We acknowledge the excellent service of this provider in managing programme samples and are now happy to inform you that the screening laboratory of The Coombe Hospital will resume testing of samples.

During this time, you will notice that patient results may come from either laboratory as operations in the Coombe are being ramped up to normal volumes. You do not have to make any changes to the way you dispatch samples to the programme or how you manage subsequent results.

For any queries on patient results please contact the relevant lab directly.

- Coombe: 01 408 5614 (between 8am and 4pm)
- Quest: 01 609 0800 (enquiries regarding sample receipt)  
Freephone 1800 657 472 (enquires re: screening test result)

Alternatively, email our lab co-ordination office at [cervical.lab@screeningservice.ie](mailto:cervical.lab@screeningservice.ie)

Thank you for your co-operation and continued support of the programme.

## Papilocare

In recent months, a new commercial product has become available which is reported to treat HPV-related cervical lesions. The *Coriolus versicolor*-based vaginal gel, which has the tradename "Papilocare", is available to purchase without prescription and costs around €450 for a 6-month course. At this time, the evidence for the efficacy and effectiveness of this treatment is very limited, and insufficient clinical trials have been carried out.

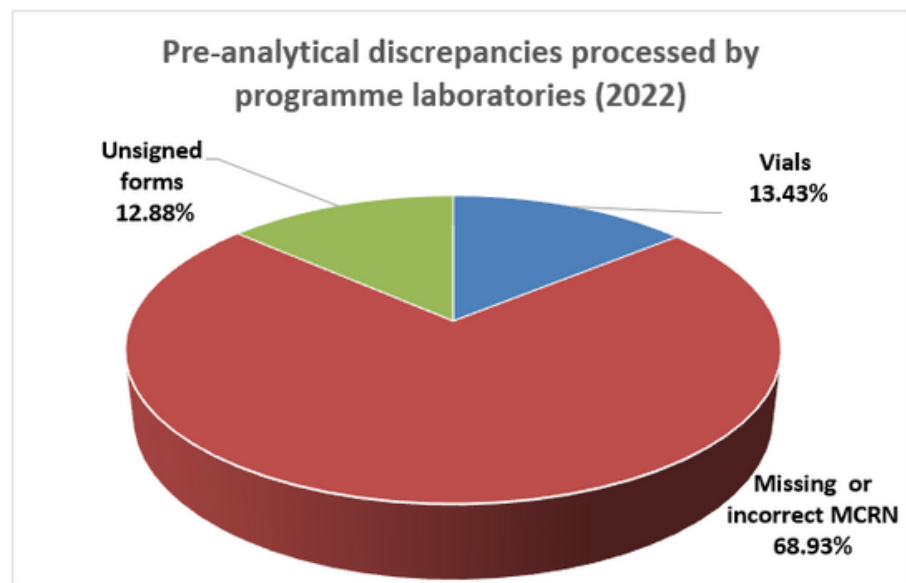
Our clinical advisors agree that while there may be a role for this product in the management of HPV-related cervical lesions in the future, at this time there is insufficient evidence to recommend its use as an evidence-based treatment. Remember, for at least 80% of people with HPV, the infection will clear itself with 18 to 24 months without any specific treatment. It is the prolonged persistence of HPV DNA in cervical cells which results in the development of squamous cell carcinoma of the cervix, a process which usually takes 10 to 15 years.

## Laboratory discrepancies

CervicalCheck programme laboratories cannot process samples where there are discrepancies noted. In 2022, the laboratory managed discrepancies including:

- blank or incorrectly labelled sample vials
- errors and omissions on cervical screening forms
- mis-matching of sample vial to the cervical screening form
- eligibility
- expired vials and samples

In 2022, approximately 8,600 discrepancies were identified, logged, and investigated which resulted in the destruction of 175 samples and delayed processing of others. These are avoidable errors. We have created a video to help talk through these discrepancies [here](#).



The graph above displays the main causes of discrepancies in 2022.

Missing or incorrect **Medical Council Registration Numbers (MCRNs)** of contracted doctors (or the CervicalCheck code for use by clinics: CLIN, PPCC, COLP, GYN, STI, ONC) is the main source of discrepancies throughout the year. This number is linked to payment to contracted doctors and clinics for the provision of cervical screening services.

**Unsigned cervical screening forms** accounted for almost 13% of discrepancies. This discrepancy type causes significant delays and effort by the laboratory and the practice/clinic to resolve as the form is returned to the practice for signature by the person who had the test. The signature is an indicator of the service user's consent for CervicalCheck to share data with all stakeholders across the screening pathway in line with GDPR.

**Vials** which are blank, incomplete, contain incorrect information or where the data on the vial does not match the data on the form account for 13% of discrepancies.

**Did you know?** You can access all previous newsletters on the CervicalCheck website [here](#).

As MCRN has consistently been the principal cause of pre-analytical discrepancies for the 12-months from January to December 2022, we have undertaken a project to improve the format of the top right-hand corner of the Cervical Screening Form. Our aim is to make the form clearer and easier to complete. The review is ongoing and will include feedback from health professionals who provide cervical screening services.

Doctor / Nurse

Doctor / Nurse name:

Practice / Clinic:

Address:

Doctor / Nurse ID:  
(MCRN or NMBI No.)

Telephone No.

Clinically Responsible Doctor ID or Clinic ID  
(MCRN)

Keep up to date on the development of the improved form in the next issues of this newsletter. If you would like to provide any ideas for improving the form, please email [stcoordinator@cervicalcheck.ie](mailto:stcoordinator@cervicalcheck.ie)

## Next vial batch expiry date

Practices should note the below vial batch expiry dates.

Lot number	Expiry date	Use by	Remove from stock
0339AA	04/12/2022	21/10/2022	Immediately
1071AA	09/03/2023	26/01/2023	26/01/2022
1095AA	05/04/2023	22/02/2023	22/02/2023
1120AA	28/04/2023	17/03/2023	17/03/2023

These vials must be removed from use in your practice as per the above table. Payment will not issue for tests submitted to the programme laboratory in vials which have expired, and the test will have to be repeated.

## An Introduction to Transgender Awareness in Healthcare - HSELand module

This module aims to improve your awareness of issues and healthcare pathways that impact the lives of transgender people and their families. You can access HSELand module [here](#) and you can find all our LGBT+ resources available [here](#).



# CervicalCheck Education Strategy 2022-2025



The CervicalCheck Screening Training Unit (STU) is delighted to present this strategic plan for the development of high-quality, accessible education for all healthcare professionals involved in delivering a cervical screening service for the period 2022 to 2025. The strategy contains a number of key objectives which provide the foundation for the education of all healthcare professionals that are involved with delivering a world class cervical screening service in Ireland, with the best interest of the woman as the central priority. You can read the strategy by clicking [here](#).

## CervicalCheck Education Strategy 2022-2025



## Screening elearning module goes live on HSELand

An elearning module about cancer screening has gone live on HSELand. It is part of a suite of 11 such modules that the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) is developing. The NCCP identified a need to develop a programme to provide health and social care staff with the knowledge and resources required to help prevent cancer. The aim of this programme is to describe the three cancer screening programmes that are available, and how HSE staff can support



### Reducing cancer risk: Population-Based Cancer Screening Programmes

0 Reviews

**N.B.** You must complete the post course evaluation as part of the overall course completion. It should take you less than 5 minutes to complete the evaluation. When you complete the course and the evaluation you will be able to print your certificate of completion.

The National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) team have identified a need to develop a programme to provide Community Healthcare staff with the knowledge and resources required to prevent cancer.

The aim of this programme is to describe the current programmes available and how you can support eligible people to consider the potential benefits and harms of screening, and make an informed decision about whether they want to take part in these programmes.

Learning Type: Online

Available Languages: • Multi-Language

Duration: 20 minutes

Who Should Take This: • All health and social care staff.

Session(s): • Reducing cancer risk: Population-Based Cancer Screening Programmes

Seats: Unlimited

Enrol

eligible people to consider the potential benefits and harms of screening. This enables them make informed decisions about their screening participation. The module takes around 20 minutes to complete. The module can be found on [HSELand](#) by using the search words 'reducing cancer risk'.

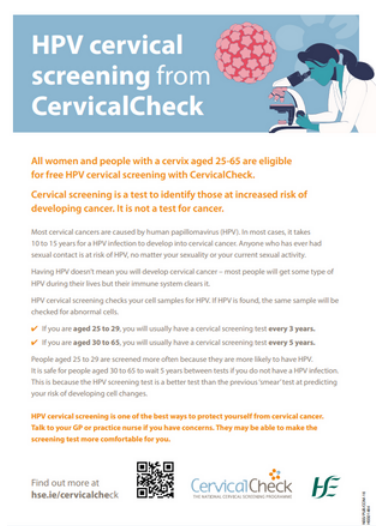
## Schedule of learning events: January - May 2023

The Screening Training Unit (STU) webinar series for healthcare professionals continues in 2023. You can watch back on previous webinars including 'Overview of CervicalCheck Programme: Webinar for Administrative Support Staff' and 'Supporting the Trans community to participate in Cervical Screening' [here](#). For more information about January to May dates and topics, please see [here](#).

FEBRUARY 2023	SPEAKER	DATE AND TIME
Patient requested reviews	<b>Prof Noirín Russell</b> - Clinical Director, CervicalCheck Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist, Cork University Maternity Hospital Clinical Professor (Hon) of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University College Cork	Wednesday 08th February 1-2pm
Providing Cervical Screening Service to women with intellectual disabilities	<b>Ms Avril Keating</b> - RNID, Clinical Nurse Manager 2, Registered Nurse Prescriber <b>Ms Geraldine O'Callaghan</b> - RNID, Candidate Advanced Nurse Practitioner <b>Ms Danielle Creedon</b> - RNID, Clinical Nurse Manager 2	Wednesday 22nd February 1-2pm

## CervicalCheck posters now available to order

We are delighted to announce that a CervicalCheck poster is now available to order on [healthpromotions.ie](http://healthpromotions.ie) for your surgery practice. The poster explains what cervical screening is, the eligible age range and encourages people to speak to their healthcare professional about cervical screening. If you have a query about placing an order or an order already placed, please email [queries@healthpromotion.ie](mailto:queries@healthpromotion.ie)



## Cervical cancer prevention week 23-29 January

In support of [European Cervical Cancer Prevention Week \(23-29 January\)](http://EuropeanCervicalCancerPreventionWeek.org), we are encouraging all women and people with a cervix aged 25 to 65 to attend their free HPV cervical screening tests regularly. We are also encouraging everyone to help prevent cervical cancer by getting informed about the causes of cervical cancer; about the link between cervical cancer and HPV; and about how HPV vaccination, cervical screening, early treatment and symptom awareness are key tools in our fight against cervical cancer.



### **Did you find this newsletter useful?**

If you would like to get in touch or have any feedback, please contact:

[communications@screeningservice.ie](mailto:communications@screeningservice.ie)

The National Screening Service (NSS), National Immunisation Office (NIO) and National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) have joined forces to develop Ireland's roadmap to reach global targets for the elimination of cervical cancer. Launched last week to mark Cervical Cancer Prevention week, Ireland's roadmap shows the strides made so far towards this global goal, and signposts the future direction we will take, breaking this ambitious journey into achievable stages. You can learn more from Dr Sarah Fitzgibbon [here](http://hse.ie/cervicalcheck).

## Dr. Scally Final Report

The National Screening Service has welcomed the publication of Dr Gabriel Scally's final progress review of the implementation of the recommendations from his Scoping Inquiry into the CervicalCheck screening programme. You can read our statement and access the report [here](http://hse.ie/cervicalcheck).

## Contact us

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