



HPV CERVICAL SCREENING NEWSLETTER

January 2024

Programme Updates

Working with our partners to mark Cervical Cancer Prevention Week 2024

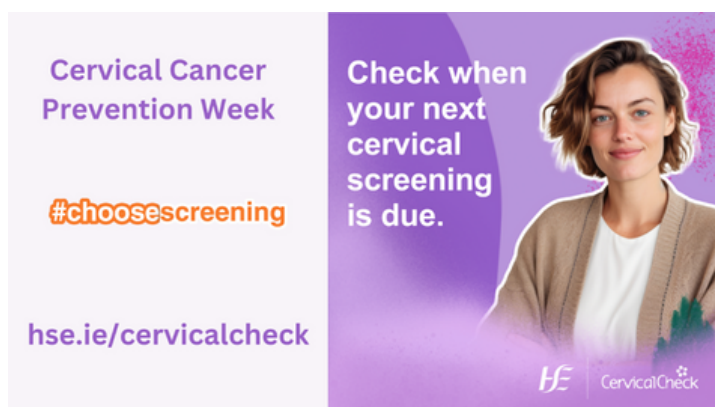
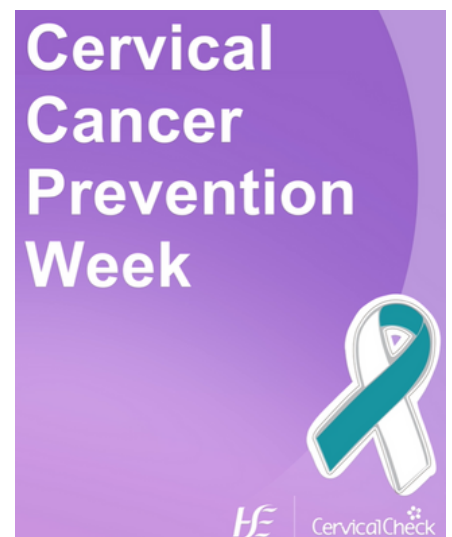
To mark Cervical Cancer Prevention Week, CervicalCheck is encouraging women to [#ChooseScreening](#).

We are asking them to check the CervicalCheck online [register](#) to ensure they are on it and that their contact details are correct. They can also find out when their next screening test is due.

During Cervical Cancer Prevention Week, we are highlighting to women and people with a cervix that regular HPV cervical screening is one of the best ways to reduce your risk of developing cervical cancer. *Why choose screening? Because HPV screening can pick up abnormal (pre-cancerous) cells and can identify cancer at the earliest possible stage. The earlier treatment starts, the better outcomes for patients.*

Throughout the week our blogs on [screeningservice.ie](#) will bring you into all areas of the programme, highlighting our new research and the work of our sample takers and our staff. You can read more [here](#).

A big **thank you** to everyone who got involved and supported Cervical Cancer Prevention Week 2024.



An example of our campaign imagery for Cervical Cancer Prevention Week

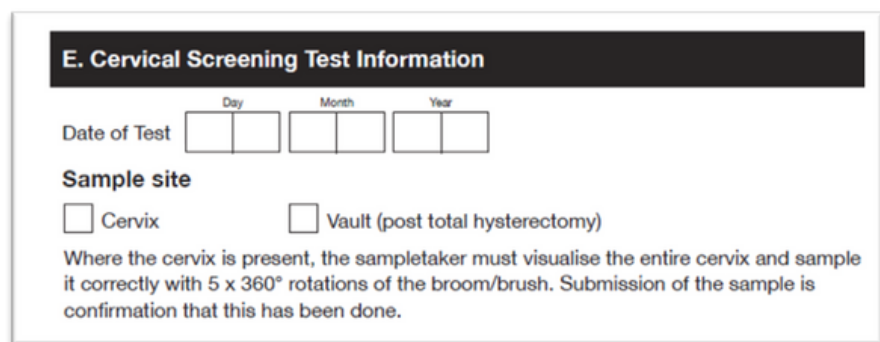
Updated information on our CervicalCheck website

We have updated [our information](#) for people who have experienced sexual violence about attending for cervical screening. 4 of the 6 Sexual Assault Treatment Units (SATUs) across Ireland offer cervical screening. They are:

- [Donegal SATU](#)
- [Dublin \(Rotunda\) SATU](#)
- [Galway SATU](#)
- [Waterford SATU](#)

The SATU staff are trained in providing HPV cervical screening for people who have experienced sexual violence. We hope to make this service available at the remaining SATUs in the future.

Tick the box!



E. Cervical Screening Test Information

Date of Test Day Month Year

Sample site

☐ Cervix ☐ Vault (post total hysterectomy)

Where the cervix is present, the sampletaker must visualise the entire cervix and sample it correctly with 5 x 360° rotations of the broom/brush. Submission of the sample is confirmation that this has been done.

By ticking the correct sample site when you fill in a cervical screening form, you help us prevent delays in processing the sample.

- **Where the cervix is present** and has been sampled correctly, tick the Cervix box.
- **Where the cervix is not present**, tick the Vault (post-total hysterectomy) box.

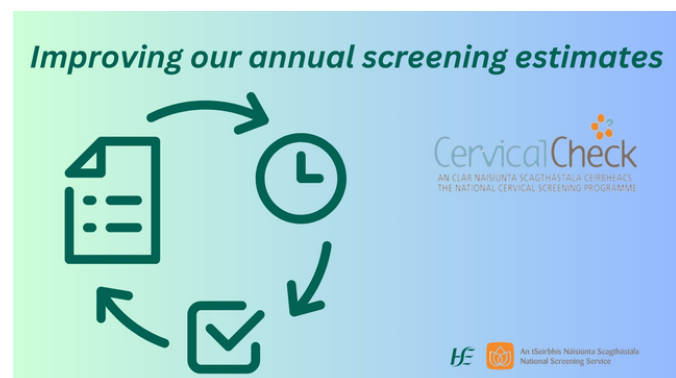
Improved annual screening estimates

As you are aware, we moved to primary HPV cervical screening in 2020 and at the same time we raised the screening age range from 25-60 to 25-65.

The move to HPV testing involved changes to [intervals between screening](#):

- Women aged 30-45 who were previously on a 3-year recall moved to a 5-year recall
- Women who have HPV found, but have no abnormal cells found, are called back after 1 year for another HPV screening test.

These changes are affecting how we estimate the numbers of women who are due a screening test each year and is resulting in fluctuations in the numbers attending for screening. You can read more about how we are improving our annual screening estimates [here](#).



GPs and practice nurses show support for the introduction of HPV self-sampling in cervical screening, new research indicates

We carried out research in 2023 amongst our sample takers to understand their attitudes and preferences towards HPV self-sampling for cervical screening. Around 200 GPs and general practice nurses took part in the online survey. The findings show that two out of three sample takers think that self-sampling for HPV should be introduced as an additional method for cervical screening in Ireland. You can read more about the research [here](#).

Introduction of HPV self-sampling could increase numbers of women participating in cervical screening, new research shows

We've also completed research with members of the public to better understand the potential role of HPV self-sampling for cervicalscreening in Ireland. The research is part of our work to increaseuptake in cervical screeningand make it more equitable. It's also part of our roadmap to [Cervical Cancer Elimination](#). You can read more [here](#).



Vial expiration

Please note the upcoming vial batch expiry dates, as follows:

Lot Number	Expiry Date	Use by	Remove from stock
2011AA	11/01/2024	30 Nov 2023	Before 30 Nov 23
2186BE	14/06/2024	3 May 2024	3 May 2024
2269AA	26/09/2024	15 August 2024	15 August 2024
3039BA	08/02/2025	28 December 2024	28 December 2024
3172AA	21/06/2025	10 May 2025	10 May 2025

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 expired vials. Samples may also have to be destroyed and repeated.

The vial ID sticker must be placed by the requesting sampletaker on the corresponding request form.

A date for your diaries...

Saturday 19 October 2024 sees CervicalCheck's first ever multidisciplinary conference. Keep an eye on our social media ([@NSShse](#)) and this newsletter for more information in the coming months.



Update on implementation of Patient Safety Act

The Patient Safety (Notifiable Incidents and Open Disclosure) Act 2023 was signed into law on 02 May 2023. We are now planning to implement the provisions of the Act. We will keep you up to date with our work in this area as we wait for the Act's commencement date to be announced.

Schedule of learning events: January - June 2024

The Screening Training Unit (STU) team are continuing their lunchtime webinars into 2024. For more information about January to June dates and topics, please see [here](#). Recordings of previous webinars are available [here](#).



Don't forget to follow us on X [@NSShse](#) to get all your up-to-date experience. #ChooseScreening

JANUARY 2024	SPEAKER	DATE AND TIME	LINK TO REGISTER
Cervical Cancer: Exploring Diagnosis and Treatment Strategies	Dr Michael O'Leary Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist GUH	Wednesday 24th January 1-2pm	Cervical Cancer: Exploring Diagnosis and Treatment Strategies
FEBRUARY 2024	SPEAKER	DATE AND TIME	LINK TO REGISTER
Navigating life after an HIV diagnosis: Expert guidance and support	Prof Fiona Lyons Consultant in Genitourinary Medicine, HSE Clinical Lead in Sexual Health	Tuesday 6th February 1-2pm	Navigating life after an HIV diagnosis: Expert guidance and support
Expertise from Colposcopy: A deep dive into the cervix	Dr Matt Hewitt Consultant Gynaecological Oncologist Cork University Maternity Hospital	Tuesday 20th February 1-2pm	Expertise from Colposcopy: A deep dive into the cervix

Is there something you want to know more about?

The HPV cervical screening newsletter is for you, our sample takers. Is there something you would like to know more about or topics you would like to see in the newsletter?

If so please contact us at communications@screeningservice.ie

Contact us

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