



# I need more tests Having a Colposcopy



**This is a Plain English information leaflet about a Cervical Screening programme.**

# Getting my results

CervicalCheck will send you a letter with the results of your screening test.

Your doctor will get the results too.

If you are worried or have any questions about your results, you can talk to your doctor.

Most women that have a cervical screening test get a normal result.

These women should go to their next screening appointment when they are invited.

# What happens if I need more tests?

Some women might need more tests.

We know that women worry about this, so we only ask you to go for more tests if we need to.

If you are asked to have more tests, you will have to go to a special clinic, called a colposcopy clinic.

These clinics are at a hospital.

Our clinics are accessible.

You can phone the clinic before your appointment if you need extra support for your appointment.

The tests are free of charge.

You do not have to pay.

# Why would I be asked to have more tests?

You could be asked to go for more tests if you have cells in your cervix that are not normal.

You could be asked to go for more tests if the doctor or nurse that did your screening test thought your cervix did not look healthy.

You could be asked to go for more tests if HPV was found in 2 or more of your tests.

HPV is a virus that can cause cervical cancer.

You could be asked to go for more tests if you had a few cervical screening tests and did not get a normal result.

# What tests will I need?

If you are asked to go for more tests, you will need a test called a colposcopy.

A colposcopy is where a special microscope is used to look closely at the cells in your cervix.

It is like a camera test.

This appointment will take about an hour.

The colposcopy test takes around 15 to 20 minutes to do.

You can go home after the test.

# Why is the test important?

A colposcopy test can help to find cells that might turn into cancer if they are not treated.

A colposcopy test can help your doctor or nurse decide if you need treatment.

We will talk to you about any treatment that you need.

There are benefits and risks to all tests.

Talk to your doctor if you have any worries.

# Getting ready for the appointment

You should not put anything into your vagina for 48 hours before the test.

If you are not sure, ask your doctor or nurse.

You can eat and drink before your appointment.

Try to eat something before your appointment.

Phone the clinic if you have your period on the day of your appointment.

You may not be able to have the test.

We can change your appointment.

# What happens at the appointment?

Staff will explain everything to you.

You can ask any questions that you want.

You can bring someone with you for support if you want.

You can ask to have another person in the room with you when you have the test.

You might want to read our Photo Story if you need a colposcopy.

This shows what will happen at your appointment.



# What happens at the appointment?

There are 3 things that could happen during your test:

1. The nurse or doctor doing the test looks at the cells in your cervix.
2. The nurse or doctor doing your test takes a sample of cells from your cervix. This is called a biopsy, and the cells are sent to the laboratory to be tested.
3. The nurse or doctor doing your tests does a treatment to get rid of cells that are not normal.

# Why would I need treatment?

The person doing the test may know straight away that you have cells that are not normal.

They may take these cells away during your test.

You will have treatment if there's a strong chance that the cells in your cervix will turn to cancer if they are not treated.

There are a couple of ways to get rid of cells that are not normal.

The doctors and nurses at the hospital will talk to you about the best treatment for you.

## After the test

You might have mild pain for a few hours.

You can take a painkiller, such as paracetamol.

You might have light bleeding or discharge for 4 to 6 weeks.

Your first period after a treatment might be heavier than usual.

There is a small risk of infection after the test.

You should see your doctor if you have a fever, tummy pain, heavy bleeding, or smelly discharge.

# **I had a biopsy or treatment. When will I get the result?**

If you had a biopsy or treatment, you will get a letter with your results.

The letter will tell you what will happen next.

# Important Things to Know

CervicalCheck will give you information about our screening programme.

We will communicate with you in a clear way, and we will tell you the truth.

We will always check that you are happy to have the test.

You can stop the test at any time.

Please see our leaflet on giving consent for screening programmes` .

Cervical screening will not find every cervical cancer.

Please see our leaflet on the benefits and harms of screening.

CervicalCheck keeps your information safe and private.

Please read our leaflet on looking after your information.

# More information

[www.hse.ie/cervicalcheck](http://www.hse.ie/cervicalcheck)

Phone us free on 1800 45 45 55

[info@cervicalcheck.ie](mailto:info@cervicalcheck.ie)

