

# North East & Yorkshire Cervical Screening Programme Update

**Freephone helpline 0800 953 7610**

## Other Contacts:

Supplies (ordered via email only)  
MDT  
Failsafe  
Pathology IT  
CSTD  
CSAS  
General Enquiries

ghnt.hpv-supplies@nhs.net  
ghnt.mdtcsp@nhs.net  
ghnt.hpvfailsafe@nhs.net  
ghnt.pathsupport@nhs.net  
gan-tr.northcstd@nhs.net  
www.csas.nhs.net  
ghnt.neycervicalscreeningcentre@nhs.net

## Good News

The current turnaround times are 9 days for primary screening and 11 days for consultant reporting.

Three trainee cytoscreeners have just completed their two year training programme and we have three more trainee cytoscreeners starting the process. We have also appointed two trainee consultant biomedical scientists to future proof our service.

## Transport update

Two new drivers have recently been appointed. If you would like to speak to one of our team regarding your sample pickup, please call the freephone helpline on 08009537610.

**Please be reassured that samples are fine for processing up to 6 weeks from being taken.**

## Out of date vials

In a recent audit, 90 vials had been rejected in Q4 due to being out of date.

It is the sample takers responsibility to check the expiry date on the vial prior to taking the sample. Please ensure that there is a minimum of 2 weeks (preferably 4 weeks) remaining on the vial. This is to allow for the required time for transport pickup and processing.

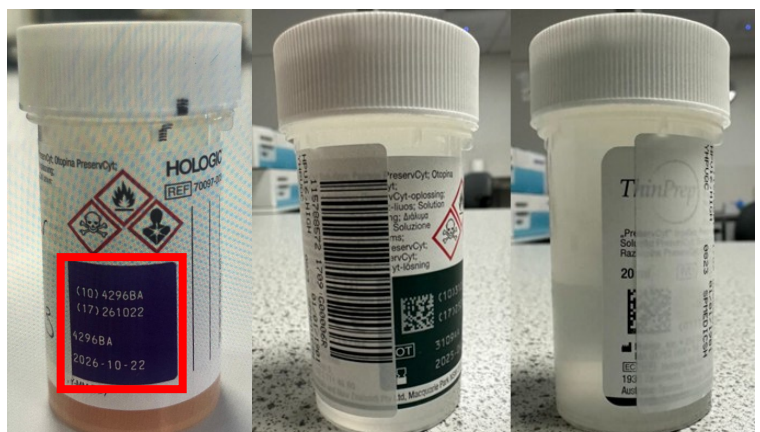
Any vials that are out of date upon receipt will be rejected in line with NHSCSP acceptance guidance.

(see section 4.3 of [www.gov.uk/government/publications/cervical-screening-accepting-samples-in-laboratories/guidance-for-acceptance-of-cervical-screening-samples-in-laboratories-and-pathways-roles-and-responsibilities](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cervical-screening-accepting-samples-in-laboratories/guidance-for-acceptance-of-cervical-screening-samples-in-laboratories-and-pathways-roles-and-responsibilities))

Where a sample label is used for the person's details, it should not obscure the vial's expiry date. It must also not obscure the clear area between each end of the label already on the vial; this interferes with the laboratory processor's ability to read the level of fluid in the vial.

**Could you please check your current stock for out-of-date vials and regularly rotate your supplies to ensure that the oldest vials are used first.**

If you have any queries, please call our freephone helpline - 0800 9537610



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## Extended Recall Intervals

**From 1 July 2025, routine cervical screening intervals were extended from 3 to 5 years for participants aged 25-49 who test negative after attending cervical screening on or after this date**

When the laboratory issues a **NEGATIVE** HPV result, with a routine recall (**X-0-A**), we will no longer be stipulating the routine recall interval in the report. The Cervical Screening Management System (CSMS) will assign the appropriate next test due date based on the individuals last 5 year history and this will be detailed in the result letter to the individual. Practices are advised to check CSMS for the correct recall when inputting results in their clinical systems.

## Did you know..

...the freephone helpline is for service users. Please do not give this number out to patients as we are unable to discuss results with them due to information governance laws.

...We send our results to CSAS overnight, where they are processed the following day. Result letters are then printed and sent out at the end of that day. If there's an issue matching the patient details at CSAS, this may cause a slight delay. Direct referrals are sent early the next morning. Colposcopy units typically respond quickly to ensure standard wait times are met and appointments are issued promptly. In most cases, the result letter will arrive before the referral. However, occasionally the referral may be received first. We recommend informing patients at the time of sampling that they will receive a result letter and, if abnormal, a separate referral letter to colposcopy. Let them know that in some cases, the referral may arrive before the result letter, so they are not alarmed. Abnormal results are sent via 1st class mail; all other results are sent 2nd class.

...it is colposcopy's responsibility to ensure that the patient is correctly discharged back to community care and inform CSMS of the correct recall. Any recall queries should be directed to the relevant colposcopy unit.

...it is the GP's responsibility to cease a patient following a negative hysterectomy

...picking the wrong locations (e.g. colp or gynae or extended access) can put the patient on the wrong pathway

## Help Us Improve

Thanks to all that have replied so far to the user survey. Here are some answers to your comments so far:

- Extra cervex brushes can be ordered when required as above.
- Register patient on ICE. If they can't be registered then a manual form is appropriate
- The contact information on the website is currently under review and will be updated as appropriate

Please continue to provide your feedback about the service:

<https://uk.surveymonkey.com/r/6C3KJGM>

