

North East & Yorkshire Cervical Screening Programme Update

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Other Contacts:

Supplies (ordered via email only)

MDT

Failsafe

Pathology IT

CSTD

CSAS

General Enquiries

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Ongoing health promotion campaigns supported by Roche™

As part of our commitment to reducing health inequalities and improving early detection of cervical cancer, we are focusing on identifying and engaging patients who have not attended their screening. Recent campaigns include:

Greeting Cards

An ongoing pilot scheme in the Yorkshire and Humber area focuses on non-attenders. Non-responders are being sent a birthday card on their 25th birthday. "Miss you" reminder cards are also being sent to 26-64 year olds who missed their last invitation. Both cards include information on why it matters, provides relevant signposting and encourages them to engage in the service. The success of this pilot will be evaluated by the 31st October.

Pride

Attending Newcastle Pride on the 19th July with the mobile screening unit. Despite the bad weather, there was a lot of interest in the unit and 11 samples were taken.

If you have an event you would like us to get involved with, please contact us on ghnt.neycervicalscreeningcentre@nhs.net



Reminder

From 09 September, the NHS plans to start sending normal results from the NHS Cervical Screening Programme, digitally utilising the NHS App. Normal results are those where the patient is put back into recall within the programme and doesn't require referral to colposcopy. If the NHS App message isn't read within 72 hours of delivery or if the patient doesn't have the NHS App, a letter will be sent as a failsafe.

Abnormal result letters (those that involve referral to colposcopy) will continue for the time being to be delivered by post. However, we are aware that some patients may see their cervical screening test result (either normal or abnormal) via the NHS App under GP Health Records or they may receive a colposcopy appointment via the NHS App before they receive their formal communications. This is because the NHS App is linked to the results being sent from the screening laboratory to the GP practice. If the patient has signed up to access their medical records, all test results would be accessible to the patient.

Good news

The current turnaround times are **7 days for primary screening and 10 days for consultant reporting**.

The cervical screening service recently underwent our annual UKAS assessment and we have retained our ISO 15189:2022 accreditation. There were only three minor findings all regarding the wording on paperwork, which have now been resolved.

The importance of being specific

It is crucial to be very specific when selecting the sample location. Patient pathways differ depending on the location and there has been several incidents where incorrect or non-specific locations have been selected resulting in the patient's results going to the wrong location or the patient going down the wrong pathway. Examples include:

- **Trust and not the individual hospital** being written on manual request forms e.g. South Tyneside and Sunderland Trust instead of South Tyneside hospital or Sunderland hospital
- **Clinic location** not specified e.g. extended access @ QE Gateshead and patients current GP Gateshead Central GP
- Requests from **Colposcopy or Gynae** need to be specified. If a colposcopy clinic is taking place in a Gynae location—the colposcopy location should be picked / stated

Sample takers must ensure that they use their own NEYCSP sample taker code. Please do not use another colleagues taker code as this affects both sets of statistics. Codes provide assurance that the sample taker has received the correct training and is competent. Common code issues seen include:

- O and 0 being mixed up
- NMC used instead of sample taker code
- NEYCSP sample taker code used out of area by locums working in the Derby area (their NMC code should be used in Derby area)

Did you know..

... **Your business continuity plans should include a supply of HMR101 manual forms, to be used in an emergency only. These can be printed now from https://csas.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Cervical-Screening-Platform_-_HMR10193.pdf**

... each sample should be placed in clear individual sample bags before placing in the pink transport bag. This is to prevent contamination and possible rejection of the whole transport bag if any leakage occurs.

... we are currently working closely with NHS England to implement the national HPV self-testing programme. It is due to be rolled out in the new year. Processes are still under development and further information will be provided by the national screening programme in due course.

Last chance to take part in the current feedback survey

Thanks to all that have replied so far to the user survey.
This survey will close 31st October 2025.

Please continue to provide your feedback about the service:
<https://uk.surveymonkey.com/r/6C3KJGM>

