

# Advice following a Cervical Punch Biopsy

**Obstetrics & Gynaecology  
Women & Children's Services**

This leaflet has been designed to give you important information about your condition / procedure, and to answer some common queries that you may have.



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## Information for patients and visitors

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### Advice following a Cervical Punch Biopsy

During your examination tiny skin samples called a punch biopsy will be taken from the surface of your cervix. These samples will be examined under a microscope in the laboratory. It will identify the degree of abnormality, which will enable us to discuss the most appropriate management option for you.

It is usual to experience a blood stained, watery discharge up to 2 weeks following a punch biopsy. It is advisable to wear a panty liner or pad and avoid using tampons.

We recommend that you refrain from sexual intercourse for 2 weeks to allow the biopsy site to heal and to reduce the risk of infection.

Do not swim for 2 weeks following this procedure. If you have heavy bleeding or a smelly discharge from your vagina up to 10 days after your visit and your period is not due, contact your own GP for advice.

**Results** – You will receive a letter within 2-4 weeks' time informing you of your results and further management. Please note **RESULTS WILL NOT BE GIVEN OVER THE TELEPHONE** – but feel free to contact the secretary if you have not received the letter informing you of the results.

When we have the results of your biopsy we will let you and your GP know these by letter. The results may show that cells in your cervix have undergone certain changes, a condition known as **cervical intra-epithelial neoplasia or CIN**.

There are different stages of CIN and in order to differentiate a scale from 1 to 3 is used according to how many of the cells are affected.

### Mild Abnormalities / CIN 1

This means that you have mild changes (only a third of the cells in the affected area are abnormal).

It is known that these mild changes often get better without intervention. We normally monitor these mild conditions, until they return to normal.

### Moderate Abnormalities / CIN 2

This means that you have moderate cell changes (two thirds of the cells in the affected area are abnormal).

### Severe Abnormalities / CIN 3

This means you have severe cell changes (all the cells in the affected area are abnormal).

The NHS cervical screening programme recommends that women with moderate or severe abnormalities are offered treatment.

**None of these changes mean that you have cancer, but if left untreated, CIN2 and CIN 3 could change to cancer over a long period of time.**

**If your biopsy results show that you need to have treatment, a follow-up appointment at the clinic will be sent to you.**



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## Concerns and Queries

If you have any concerns / queries about any of the services offered by the Trust, in the first instance, please speak to the person providing your care.

### For Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital

Alternatively you can contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on (01472) 875403 or at the PALS office which is situated near the main entrance.

### For Scunthorpe General Hospital

Alternatively you can contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on (01724) 290132 or at the PALS office which is situated on C Floor.

Alternatively you can email:  
[nlg-tr.PALS@nhs.net](mailto:nlg-tr.PALS@nhs.net)

## Confidentiality

Information on NHS patients is collected in a variety of ways and for a variety of reasons (e.g. providing care and treatment, managing and planning the NHS, training and educating staff, research etc.).

Everyone working for the NHS has a legal duty to keep information about you confidential. Information will only ever be shared with people who have a genuine need for it (e.g. your GP or other professionals from whom you have been receiving care) or if the law requires it, for example, to notify a birth.

Please be assured however that anyone who receives information from us is also under a legal duty to keep it confidential.

## Zero Tolerance - Violent, Threatening and Abusive Behaviour

The Trust and its staff are committed to providing high quality care to patients within the department. However, we wish to advise all patients / visitors that the following inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated:

- Swearing
- Threatening / abusive behaviour
- Verbal / physical abuse

The Trust reserves the right to withdraw from treating patients whom are threatening / abusive / violent and ensuring the removal of those persons from the premises.

All acts of criminal violence and aggression will be notified to the Police immediately.

## Risk Management Strategy

The Trust welcomes comments and suggestions from patients and visitors that could help to reduce risk.

Perhaps you have experienced something whilst in hospital, whilst attending as an outpatient or as a visitor and you felt at risk.

Please tell a member of staff on the ward or in the department you are attending / visiting.

## Moving & Handling

The Trust operates a Minimal Lifting Policy, which in essence means patients are only ever lifted by nursing staff in an emergency situation.

Patients are always encouraged to help themselves as much as possible when mobilising, and if unable to do so, equipment may be used to assist in their safe transfer.

If you have any questions regarding moving and handling of patients within the Trust, please speak to a member of staff in the ward or department you are visiting.



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# Information for patients and visitors

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**Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS  
Foundation Trust**

**Diana Princess of Wales Hospital  
Scartho Road  
Grimsby  
01472 874111**

**Scunthorpe General Hospital  
Cliff Gardens  
Scunthorpe  
01724 282282**

**Goole & District Hospital  
Woodland Avenue  
Goole  
01405 720720**

[www.nlg.nhs.uk](http://www.nlg.nhs.uk)

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**Author: Advanced Nurse Practitioner / Nurse  
Colposcopist**

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