

# HPV Testing Information for Women NHS Cervical Screening Programme

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

### What is the NHS Cervical Screening Programme?

The Cervical Screening Programme aims to reduce the number of women who develop invasive cervical cancer and the number of women who die from it. It does this by regularly screening women between the ages of 25 and 64, so that conditions that might otherwise develop into invasive cancer can be identified and treated. The introduction of HPV testing will help to do this even more effectively.

### What is HPV?

HPV stands for Human Papilloma Virus. It is a very common infection and most women get it at some time in their life. In most cases it clears up by itself without the need for treatment.

There are many types of HPV. Most are harmless but some can cause abnormalities in the cervix and are known as 'high-risk' HPV types. These abnormalities often clear up without treatment when the virus clears. But in some women the virus persists, placing them at greater risk of developing cervical abnormalities (CIN) which may need treatment.

### How do people get HPV?

HPV is a very common infection among people who have been sexually active at some time in their life. It is easily transmitted during sex between men and women and between partners of the same sex. The virus shows no symptoms, so it is possible that

- someone may have had the infection for many years without knowing about it
- a partner may have been infected years earlier and, again, be unaware of it

### Why might I be tested for HPV?

#### HPV testing in women with borderline or mild dyskaryosis

If a woman's screening result shows mild abnormalities (called borderline or mild dyskaryosis) an HPV test will be carried out on her sample. Women with borderline or mild dyskaryosis have only a 15–20% chance of having an abnormality significant enough to need treatment.

The HPV test is important because the presence or absence of HPV indicates which women might need treatment. If HPV is found in her sample the woman will be invited to go for colposcopy.

Colposcopy involves looking closely at the cervix to see whether any treatment is needed. If it is, she will normally be seen in an Outpatients Clinic, which means that there is no need to stay in hospital overnight.

#### HPV testing in women who have received treatment for CIN

If colposcopy reveals CIN and the woman has been treated for it, she will be screened once again around six months after her treatment. If the result is normal, borderline or mild the sample will be tested for HPV. If HPV is not found she will not need to be screened for another three years.

If HPV is found, or if the screening result shows moderate or worse dyskaryosis, the woman will be invited for colposcopy again. She will then be treated or (if treatment is not needed) monitored in line with the national guidelines covering women who have had a colposcopy.



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### How is the HPV test done?

The test is done using the sample of cells taken during the screening test, so there is no need to be screened again.

### Where can I find more information?

If you would like more information about HPV testing, or about anything else mentioned in this fact sheet, talk to your practice nurse or visit the NHS Cancer Screening Programmes website at [www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk](http://www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk)

### 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.



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### 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.

### Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust

**Diana Princess of Wales Hospital**  
Scarcho 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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