

Information following your cervical screening (smear test)

Information for patients, relatives and carers

Thank you for attending for your cervical screening test

You will get the results by post within the next four to six weeks and a copy of the results will also be sent to your GP practice. Try not to worry if it is taking a long time to get your results letter. It does not mean anything is wrong, and most people will have a normal result.

Your smear sample will be tested for the high-risk types of Human Papilloma virus (HPV). These viruses are responsible for the abnormal cells which can occasionally become cancerous and yet which are easily treated, greatly reducing the risk of cancer. The HPV test, therefore helps to find more women with cervical cell abnormalities that may need treatment.

There are four possible results:

1. HPV negative

An HPV negative result means that you do not need any further tests to check for abnormal cervical cells, even if you have had these in the past. If you are aged between 25 to 49 years you will be sent an invite for your next screening in 3 years and 5 years if you are aged 50 to 64 years.

2. HPV positive: no abnormal cells

If your sample is HPV positive, then it will be checked for abnormal cervical cells. If none are found your result will say you have HPV but no abnormal cells. You will be asked to return for screening again in one year to check that your immune system has got rid of HPV (which happens in most cases).

3. HPV positive: abnormal cells found

There are several 'grades' of abnormal cells as some are more serious than others. Your result letter will explain what your results mean. If you have HPV and any grades of abnormal cervical cells you will be referred for a colposcopy, which is a closer examination of the cervix using a type of microscope called a colposcope. If further treatment is needed as indicated by a colposcopy, it is usually a simple outpatient procedure. Please do attend for the examination when invited.

Further information about HPV can be found on:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/human-papilloma-virus-hpv/>

4. Inadequate result

Occasionally a sample may be called 'inadequate'. This may be due to a technical problem, for example if the laboratory cannot get an HPV test result from your sample or cannot see if abnormal cells are present or not. If you have an inadequate test, you will be asked to have cervical screening again in three months. The wait is to make sure that there are enough cells again to get a sample from.

If you are concerned about your test result or have not received your results within two months of having your test, please contact your GP/Practice Nurse.

For further information please visit www.gov.uk/phe/cervical-screening-leaflet: NHS Cervical screening – Helping you decide.

Tell us what you think of this leaflet

We hope that you found this leaflet helpful. If you would like to tell us what you think, please contact: YorSexualHealth, Monkgate Health Centre, YO31 7WA or telephone 01904 725444.

Teaching, training and research

Our Trust is committed to teaching, training and research to support the development of health and healthcare in our community. Healthcare students may observe consultations for this purpose. You can opt out if you do not want students to observe. We may also ask you if you would like to be involved in our research.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS offers impartial advice and assistance to patients, their relatives, friends and carers. We can listen to feedback (positive or negative), answer questions and help resolve any concerns about Trust services.

PALS can be contacted on 01904 726262, or email pals@york.nhs.uk. An answer phone is available out of hours.

Leaflets in alternative languages or formats

Please telephone or email if you require this information in a different language or format, for example Braille, large print or audio.

如果你要求本資 不同的 或 式提供 , 電或發電

Jeżeli niniejsze informacje potrzebne są w innym języku lub formacie, należy zadzwonić lub wysłać wiadomość e-mail

Bu bilgileri değişik bir lisanda ya da formatta istiyorsanız lütfen telefon ediniz ya da e-posta gönderiniz

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