



York and Scarborough
Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

What happens at the Colposcopy Clinic?

Information for patients, relatives and carers

① For more information, please contact:

Colposcopy admin on 01904 726705

Or

York Appointments

Sarah York Lead Nurse Colposcopist 01904 724862

Scarborough appointments

Sandie Dolben Nurse Colposcopist 0172312061

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Why do I have to go to the Colposcopy clinic?



You have had a smear test.
The result of your smear test shows that you need to have another test.



Your results have shown you may have some abnormal cells.
The cells may become cancer.
Cancer is a very serious illness.



You will have to come to the Colposcopy clinic so we can have a look at your cervix.



We will send you a letter with the date and time of your appointment. If you cannot come telephone the hospital.



You can come with a friend, relative or support worker.

What is a Colposcopy?



A Colposcopy is an examination by a Doctor or specialist Nurse [colposcopist]. They will look at your cells on your cervix.



The Colposcopist will use an instrument called a colposcope. It looks like a pair of binoculars on a stand.

It looks up your vagina to your cervix. It does not go inside your vagina.



If you feel nervous you can visit the Colposcopy clinic first. You can meet the Doctors and Nurses.



You can get to the Colposcopy clinic by bus, a taxi or travel by car. If you require hospital transport, you can arrange this with your doctor's surgery before your appointment.

When you get to clinic



You will meet the receptionist. Give her your appointment letter. They will ask your name, address and date of birth.



You will be asked to sit in the waiting room. The Nurse will call your name and take you to see the Colposcopist.



The Colposcopist will sit and talk to you. They will ask you some questions. They will ask when you had your last period.



You will then go to another room where the nurse will ask you to take off your trousers or skirt and knickers and put on a hospital gown.



There will be a lot of equipment in the room.
You will be asked to sit on a special bed with your legs up in stirrups.

The examination



You may have someone with you during the examination. There will be a Colposcopist and a Nurse.



The Colposcopist will put a speculum inside your vagina. This is the same as when you had your smear test done.



The Colposcopist will dab some liquids onto your cervix. This will show the abnormal cells on your cervix. The colposcopist will look at the cells using the colposcope.



The Colposcopist may need to take a sample of cells from your cervix. This is called a punch biopsy. A biopsy can sometimes hurt a bit.



The sample will be sent by the nurse to the laboratory. The result of the biopsy will let the Colposcopist know if you need treatment.



You might bleed a little after the colposcopy. This is normal. Wear a sanitary towel.



If you have had a biopsy taken you should not have sex for five days, or until any bleeding stops.



You should feel well enough to go home after the colposcopy. The colposcopist will write to you with the results. This might take six weeks.

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:

Colposcopy admin on 01904 726705 or Sarah York, Lead Nurse Colposcopist York on 01904 724862 or Sandie Dolben, Nurse Colposcopist Scarborough on 01723 342601

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 yhs-tr.patientexperienceteam@nhs.net.

An answer phone is available out of hours.

Leaflets in alternative languages or formats

If you would like this information in a different format, including braille or easy read, or translated into a different language, please speak to a member of staff in the ward or department providing your care.

Patient Information Leaflets can be accessed via the Trust's Patient Information Leaflet website:

www.yorkhospitals.nhs.uk/your-visit/patient-information-leaflets/

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