

Reviewing your cervical screening history

Information for patients diagnosed with cervical cancer.

Being told you have cervical cancer can be a shock. You may feel anxious and uncertain about what will happen next. You may also be wondering why you have cervical cancer, especially if you have had screening tests (often called smear tests) in the past.

Cervical screening and cancer Cervical screening reduces the risk of developing cervical cancer. It can prevent about 75% of cervical cancers from developing (3 out of 4). Regular screening is the best way to find changes to the cervix early on. But, like other screening tests, it is not perfect. Screening cannot identify every single case of cancer or pre-cancer.

Reviewing your previous screening history

Reviews are where we look into what has happened in the past. They are an important and routine part of every high-quality screening programme.

Reviews can show us how well the screening programme is working and where improvement could be made.

The cervical screening process involves many different steps which aim to find and treat abnormal cells on the cervix, to prevent cervical cancer from developing. In most cases, a review will show that all steps have been followed efficiently and that a cervical cancer has developed despite the screening programme working properly. Occasionally, a review may find that one or more steps in the process have not worked as well as they should. Reviewing your case history and previous tests will help find what has happened and may show where we could make improvements.

A review takes up to six months to complete.

Liverpool Women's Hospital will let you know once the findings are available.

You can then decide whether you wish to know the findings of the review.

We will then organise an appointment if you wish to know the results of the review once it is available.

More information

If you have any more questions about your referral, treatment or the review process, please speak to your Cancer Nurse Specialist team on 0151 702 4186 or the Colposcopy service on 0151 702 1528.

Further information can be found <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cervical-screening-disclosure-of-audit-results> or Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust(visit their website at www.jostrust.org.uk

This leaflet can be made available in different formats on request. If you would like to make any suggestions or comments about the content of this leaflet, then please contact the Patient Experience Team on 0151 702 4353 or by email at pals@lwh.nhs.uk

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