

Reviewing your cervical screening history

An information guide



Reviewing your cervical screening history

The aim of this leaflet is to advise you about a cervical cancer audit which is being carried out within the National Health Service.

What is an Audit?

This audit will involve a review of your cervical screening history in the last ten years - up to and including the point of when your cervical cancer was diagnosed.

This will include a review of:

- Your medical records
- All of your previous cervical screening
- Colposcopy referrals and appointments
- Any biopsies and treatment reports
- Follow up arrangement plans
- Any letters related to cervical screening

A group of professionals will examine whether your screening history meets national guidance.

Why do you need to audit my notes?

The aim of this audit is to monitor the effectiveness of the National Cervical Cancer Screening Programme.

The National Cervical Screening Programme is estimated to save about 4,500 lives each year in England and prevent about 75% of all cervical cancers. However, screening cannot identify every single case of cancer or pre-cancer. This is for a number of reasons which are related to the screening test that is used and the different forms of treatment that are given.

This audit will help us to identify:

- Areas where the screening programme is working well
- Areas where improvements can be made.

This audit may also help:

- To improve the organisation of the screening programme
- Provide a better understanding of the development of cancers and how they are diagnosed.

All cases of cervical cancer will be reviewed.

What might the audit show?

In most cases, the audit will show that the correct procedures have been followed and that you received appropriate care. Sometimes, the review may find that one or more steps in the process have not worked as well as they should and may highlight where we could make improvements.

In many cases the cancer will have been detected at the earliest possible stage. Although cervical screening prevents a high percentage of cervical cancers (about 75%) it cannot prevent all of them. The review process aims to highlight any possible areas of weakness so we can make improvements for everyone.

Some examples are given below.

Screening cannot always identify abnormal cells on a cervical sample slide because:

- Sometimes the cells do not look different from normal cells
- There may be very few abnormal cells on the slide
- The person reading the slide may miss the abnormality (this happens occasionally, no matter how experienced the reader is).

Colposcopy (a visual examination of the cervix) cannot always identify abnormal areas of the cervix because:

- The abnormal area might not be visible during the examination
- The abnormal area might not be taken as a sample in a biopsy
- The abnormal cells might be hidden higher up inside the cervix.

Some types of abnormality are simply not easy to identify at a Colposcopy.

Why should women bother to go for cervical screening if abnormalities can be missed?

Cervical screening reduces the risk of developing cervical cancer. The cervical screening programme is estimated to save 4,500 lives a year nationally and regular screening is the best way to detect early changes to the cervix.

Will this audit affect my care?

No, this audit will not affect the care that you will receive from your doctors in any way.

What happens to the information collected for my review?

We collect screening information as part of an on-going process. Your information (without your name) goes towards improving the systems of the programme, and to help discover more about how cancers develop and how they are diagnosed and treated. This is done whether or not you want to know the results of the review.

Will my details be kept confidential?

Yes, all the information collected in the audit is confidential and further analysis of your details nationally will be undertaken on an anonymous basis.

Will I be able to have access to the results of my screening audit?

Yes, the results of your review will be available in approximately 6 months' time. Please let us know if you would like to receive the results of the review of your screening history when it is available. If you wish to receive the review findings, you will be offered an appointment to discuss the results and ask any questions you may have.

What if I don't want to know the results of the audit now but change my mind later?

We understand this is a difficult time and you may not want to receive the results of the audit now. If you decide that you do want to know the results in the future, please contact your hospital doctor, who will discuss the audit with you.

What if I don't want to know the results of the audit?

It is completely up to you to decide whether or not you want to know the results of the audit. It will not make any difference to your care.

Can my family ask for the results if I don't want to know?

No, unless you give permission we cannot give your relatives access to any details of your medical records.

Who can I contact for more information?

If there is anything that you do not understand about this review or if you would simply like to discuss it in more detail, please let us know and we can arrange an appointment for this. Please contact:

The Medical Informatics Office on 0161 627 1847 or 0161 627 8905.

You may also wish to discuss this with your close family or friends, GP or nurse specialist.

If you would like more information about your referral or treatment you can contact us in the Colposcopy Unit you were seen at:

Colposcopy Unit, NMGH 0161 720 2757

Colposcopy Unit, FGH 0161 778 2349

Colposcopy Unit, ROH 0161 656 8896

Colposcopy Unit, RI 01706 906129

If you know the name of your Consultant or Nurse Specialist, please ask for him/her and the receptionist will be able to arrange for them to discuss it with you at a later appointment.

Your notes or questions:

Please write down any questions you have and bring them with you to your next appointment.

Review results

We would be happy to share the results of the review of your personal cervical screening history with you should you wish to know the outcome.

If you wish to know the outcome, please contact the Medical Informatics Administrator at Royal Oldham Hospital and an appointment will be made for you to see the Consultant or Doctor that is dealing with your treatment.

If you do not wish to have this information presently, but change your mind at a later time, please contact:

The Medical Informatics Office on 0161 627 1847 or 0161 627 8905.

If English is not your first language and you need help, please contact the Interpretation and Translation Service

Jeśli angielski nie jest twoim pierwszym językiem i potrzebujesz pomocy, skontaktuj się z działem tłumaczeń ustnych i pisemnych

اگر انگریزی آپ کی پہلی زبان نہیں ہے اور آپ کو مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو ، براہ کرم ترجمانی اور ترجمہ خدمت سے رابطہ کریں

Dacă engleza nu este prima ta limbă și ai nevoie de ajutor, te rugăm să contactezi Serviciul de interpretare și traducere

ইংরাজী যদি আপনার প্রথম ভাষা না হয় এবং আপনার সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন হয় তবে অনুগ্রহ করে দোভাষী এবং অনুবাদ পরিষেবাটিতে যোগাযোগ করুন

إذا لم تكن الإنجليزية هي لغتك الأولى وتحتاج إلى مساعدة ، فيرجى الاتصال بخدمة الترجمة الشفوية والتحريرية

☎ : 0161 627 8770

@ : interpretation@pat.nhs.uk

To improve our care environment for Patients, Visitors and Staff, **Northern Care Alliance NHS Group** is Smoke Free including buildings, grounds & car parks.

For advice on stopping smoking contact the Specialist Stop Smoking Service on 01706 517 522

For general enquiries please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 0161 604 5897

For enquiries regarding clinic appointments, clinical care and treatment please contact 0161 624 0420 and the Switchboard Operator will put you through to the correct department / service

The Northern Care Alliance NHS Group (NCA) is one of the largest NHS organisations in the country, employing 17,000 staff and providing a range of hospital and community healthcare services to around 1 million people across Salford, Oldham, Bury, Rochdale and surrounding areas. Our Care Organisations are responsible for providing our services, delivering safe, high quality and reliable care to the local communities they serve.

The NCA brings together Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust and the hospitals and community services of The Royal Oldham Hospital, Fairfield General Hospital in Bury, and Rochdale Infirmary (currently part of The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust).

 www.facebook.com/NorthernCareAllianceNHSGroup

 www.linkedin.com/company/northern-care-alliance-nhs-group

 Northern Care Alliance NHS Group (NCA) @NCAlliance_NHS

Date of publication: October 2017

Date of review: October 2019

Date of next review: October 2021

Ref: PI(WC)1055

© The Northern Care Alliance NHS Group

www.pat.nhs.uk

www.northerncarealliance.nhs.uk

