

FACT SHEET

CERVICAL SCREENING

Cervical screening (also known as a smear test) checks the health of your cervix and helps find abnormal changes before they can turn into cancer.

Cervical screening saves thousands of lives each year. The NHS says it's one of the most preventable cancers.

Who can have screening?

Everyone with a cervix aged 25 – 64 years old should go for cervical screening. You'll get a letter inviting you to make an appointment. How often you're invited, depends on your age.

- Under 25: Up to 6 months before you turn 25
- 25 to 49: Every 3 years
- 50 to 64: Every 5 years
- 65 or older: Only if a recent test was abnormal

If you're 65+ and never been for cervical screening, or have not had cervical screening since the age of 50, you can ask your GP for a test.

If you have had a total hysterectomy you will not need to go for cervical screening.

Double check that you are registered with a GP surgery to be invited for cervical screening.

Worried or need advice: If you're concerned about a screening appointment or have any symptoms (e.g. unusual bleeding and pain – see full list at www.nhs.uk/conditions/cervical-cancer/symptoms/), don't wait for your screening:

- Speak to a GP for advice
- Call the Eve Appeal on 0808 802 0019

Try not to put off cervical screening. It's one of the best ways to protect yourself from cervical cancer.

Search 'NHS Cervical Screening' for further guidance and details of easy read leaflets.

All information is provided by the NHS



To talk to someone in confidence, contact Healthwatch Stockport

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