

Primary Care Cervical Screening: Guidance for Transmen and Non-Binary Patients

It is important that failsafe processes and safety checks are in place for the cervical screening test. This will ensure that samples taken from transmen and/or non-binary people will be accepted at the laboratory and will reduce the chance of any errors, resulting in screening safety incidents, or harm.

This guidance should be used in conjunction with Primary Care Cervical Screening: Best Practice and Failsafe C Checks. Please note that non-binary people may fall into any of the categories below.

Patients	<p>WOMEN: Individuals assigned female at birth who are registered with a GP as female:</p> <p>Have a cervix and are eligible for Cervical Screening.</p>	<p>TRANS MEN: Individuals assigned female at birth who are registered with a GP as male:</p> <p>Have a cervix and are eligible for Cervical Screening.</p>	<p>MEN and TRANS WOMEN: Individuals assigned male at birth:</p> <p>Do not have a cervix and are not eligible for Cervical Screening.</p>
Invitation	<p>Invited by the Cervical Screening Administration Service (CSAS).</p> <p>However, following discussion, if the patient does <u>not</u> want cervical screening, they should be removed from the Prior notification List (PNL). Consider advice from Jo's Trust (link below).</p>	<p>Not invited by the Cervical Screening Administration Service (CSAS).</p> <p>Following discussion, if the patient consents to cervical screening, the GP practice should send invites directly to the patient. Consider setting an alert on the patient's records to send an invitation for screening.</p>	<p>Not invited by the Cervical Screening Service (CSAS).</p> <p>No need for practice to invite.</p>
Appointment	<p>Usual processes apply.</p> <p>Please see Primary Care Cervical Screening: Best Practice and Failsafe Checks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sample taker to print a blank HMR101 laboratory request form & to complete all fields in the presence of the patient. • Please write "IWAC" across the top of the form. * • Use great sensitivity in your communication and during the examination as the procedure may be a difficult experience for the patient. <p><i>*IWAC= Individual with a cervix</i></p>	<p>No appointment required.</p>
Results	<p>Usual processes apply.</p> <p>You will receive the results from the Cervical Screening laboratory within +/- 14 days.</p> <p>A results letter will be sent to the patient via the Cervical Screening Administration Service (CSAS).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You will receive the results from the Cervical Screening laboratory within +/- 14 days. • Practice to communicate test results to the patient (please note, they will not receive a letter from CSAS). • Please check that the patient attends colposcopy if they are referred for an appointment. • Set a reminder to invite the patient for their next screening test when they are next due. 	<p>N/A</p>

Practice Responsibilities

GP practices have a responsibility to cover the following points:

- Identify eligible patients and record this on the system
- Communicate and counsel the patient in terms of informed choice, the importance of screening for those who have a cervix and any specific needs/adjustments
- GP practice to send invitations to the patient at the correct intervals for screening, along with any earlier follow up that may be required
- Communicate the cervical sample test results to the patient
- Ensure that any referral required to colposcopy is undertaken
- Have a failsafe process in place with all the above

Additional Considerations

It is an important point for any healthcare professionals involved in cervical screening, that not everyone accessing the screening programme will be female. It is important to expect trans and non-binary people to access services and treat them like any other patient and not as unusual or unexpected. Practice staff should look for ways to make the patient feel comfortable or access the service in different ways.

Language for cervical screening is not always inclusive, with invitations often addressed to “Ms”. Some patients may experience anxiety and feeling out of place, particularly in a cervical screening clinic that may be dominated by women. Being understanding and supportive will help to alleviate anxiety.

Please consider the following points:

- A longer appointment and other factors as per Jo Trust advise (*link below*)
- A cervical screening clinic specifically for trans men & non-binary patients. See *PHE blog* below
- A phone or video appointment with the sample taker before the cervical screening appointment to allay anxieties
- Bringing a trusted person to the appointment
- Booking the appointment with a sample taker of a particular gender, if possible

Useful Guides

Information leaflet on screening for trans and non-binary people:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-population-screening-information-for-transgender-people/nhs-population-screening-information-for-trans-people>>

PHE blog on reducing cervical screening inequalities for trans people:

<https://phescreening.blog.gov.uk/2019/04/10/reducing-cervical-screening-inequalities-for-trans-people/>

Call/recall guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cervical-screening-call-and-recall-administration-best-practice/cervical-screening-call-and-recall>>

Jo`s Trust – guidance for Primary Care for trans men/nonbinary

<https://www.jostrust.org.uk/professionals/health-professionals/nurse-gp/trans-non-binary/barriers>