

Important Information for women aged 60 and over

**Your
opportunity
to have a
HPV test**

Why have I been sent this information?

We invited you for a cervical screening (smear test) 12 months ago, and we haven't yet had a result for you. As you will be aged 65 or over in five years' time, we won't be sending you any more invitations.

Why should I go for cervical screening now?

This test is new. Since 2018, Cervical Screening Wales has been testing women for the virus that causes cervical cancer (**Human Papillomavirus or HPV**). This can be found even when the cells in the sample look normal. If no HPV is found, then the risk of developing cervical cancer in the future is extremely low. Between the ages of 60 and 64, less than one in 20 women tested will have HPV found.

Going for screening is your choice, but the best way of preventing cervical cancer is to attend for screening every time you are invited. Even if you have always had normal tests, it is still important to attend.

Cervical cancer in women aged 65 and over

Women aged 65 and over are at low risk but can still develop cervical cancer. Most women who develop cervical cancer in this age group:

- Have never been screened
- Have not been screened in the last 15 years
- Have been screened in the past but missed their last test

What to do if you are worried or find the test uncomfortable

You can talk with your doctor or practice nurse about this. There are things that they can do to make the test more comfortable. Sometimes using a cream or pessaries for a few weeks before your test, or using smaller equipment can help.

Signs and symptoms of cervical cancer

It is very important you speak to someone at your GP surgery if you have:

- Vaginal bleeding after sex, between periods or after the menopause
- Vaginal discharge that is not normal for you
- Persistent back or tummy pains, or pain during sex

This test is new, and many women are now being tested this way for the first time. We want to make sure you have the opportunity to have this test.

