

Cytology Department
Liverpool Clinical Laboratories,
Royal Liverpool University Hospital
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2 July 2018

Dear Colleague,

Re: HPV Primary Screening Implementation

From Summer 2018 Liverpool Clinical Laboratories will be providing the cervical screening service for the Isle of Man. Liverpool Clinical Laboratories is a joint venture partnership between the Royal Liverpool & Broadgreen University Hospital NHS Trust and Aintree University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust providing pathology services to Liverpool and the surrounding area.

The cytology department is a fully CPA accredited laboratory service (awaiting formal UKAS ISO15189 accreditation) that has been at the forefront of HPV Primary Screening technology since 2008. We were a pilot site for HPV Triage & Test of Cure and have been a pilot site for HPV Primary Screening since 2013. We are the first English laboratory to completely convert its cervical screening service to HPV Primary Screening ahead of national implementation in 2019.

Within with this letter is a link to the e-learning package '**Primary High Risk HPV Testing with Cytology Triage Awareness Training**' which will take **30-40 minutes to complete**. The package has primarily been devised for the English Cervical Screening Programme, we appreciate there are subtle differences in recall intervals for inadequate samples and recording of results on GP IT systems. The rationale and practicalities of HPV testing as the primary screen is different in so many aspects from cytology as the primary screen, and so it's really important that all sample takers do this training package. All sample takers (Doctors, Practice Nurses, Nurses) need to complete the online training package and receive their certificate. Only in this way can you know that you are advising women correctly. **MUST be completed before 31 July 2018.**

The training package provides background information regarding the changes to the cervical screening programme, evidence from the pilot sites, the new screening algorithms, possible results and patient management considerations. There are also links to a number of other information leaflets which are designed to support sample takers and inform women attending for cervical screening. Access to the e-learning can be found at [eLearn Vannin](#). To access '**Primary High Risk HPV Testing with Cytology Triage Awareness Training**' just log into eLearn Vannin, and click on the 'My Learning' tab. You will find the course under the header '**Protection and Care**'. If you have any problems accessing the course, please contact the eLearn Vannin Helpdesk by email at ellearnvanninhelp@gov.im or by telephone on 687546. It will be of interest to anyone who advises women about screening too.

Implementation of HPV primary screening across the Isle of Man will provide women with a screening test that is more sensitive than the current liquid based cytology method for the detection of disease, whilst confirming a longer term low risk after a negative HPV test result. The changes will also help quality improvements in the local cervical screening programme by shorter laboratory reporting times and better use of colposcopy services.

The changes for primary care are small. There is NO change in the sample taking process and NO change in the completion of the cervical screening request form. The change will be in the consent taking process where an increased emphasis on the role of HPV infection and cervical disease is required. The training material provides information to support this change and there is a dedicated e-mail address included in the presentation for sample takers to ask questions of professional advisors.

We would be grateful if you could ensure this information is cascaded to all cervical smear takers and other clinicians in your practice.

Finally, we would like to thank you for your continued support and understanding in this period of change.

Yours sincerely



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cc: GPs, PNs, PMs, Colposcopy and Gynae team, Staywell Team, GUM,
Family Planning Clinic