

Cervical Screening Fact Sheet

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Cervical Screening

10 Key Facts

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* If you have limited time – concentrate on the **5 'key facts'** that are in **bold**.

- 1.** Women and trans men (registered as female) with a cervix in England aged 25-49 are invited to attend for their cervical screen (smear test) every 3 years. Those aged 50-64 are invited to attend every 5 years.
- 2.** * **Cervical screening is not a test for cancer** – it is a test to check the health of the cells in the cervix (**it looks for changes before they become cancerous**).
- 3.** * **Cervical screens (smear tests) are carried out at a GP surgery by a Practice Nurse.** Usually female, but you can request one if presented with a male nurse.
- 4.** If you have missed an appointment – you can easily book a new one at your GP surgery.
- 5.** * **Two women die each day from cervical cancer.**
- 6.** * **99.8% of cervical cancers are caused by high risk HPV infections.** (Human Papillomavirus)
- 7.** There are over 100 'types' of HPV, and only around 13 of these are considered 'high risk'.
- 8.** HPV vaccinations protect against HPV infections for at least 10 years.
- 9.** All 12 and 13 year old (boys & girls) are offered HPV vaccinations in school.
- 10.** * **Cervical screening protects against cervical cancer. Screening spots changes before they turn cancerous.**

Cervical Screening Key Messages

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Key Messages:

If it's unusual for you – see your GP

We know our own bodies. If you notice anything unusual, book an appointment to talk through with your GP.

Early detection saves lives

Those who regularly attend their screening are more likely to have early cell changes found, usually **before** they turn cancerous.

Cervical screening saves lives

Cervical screening can find cell changes early, **before** they have had chance to become cancerous.



Cervical Screening Fact Sheet – How to Guide

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This simple briefing sheet aims to give you a couple of pointers for using any of the Answer Cancer fact sheets.

These fact sheets are a great way to convey essential information in a brief, simple and easy to understand format.

They provide key information, facts & figures on cancer screening all in one place (A4 document).

How to use

- Use in a group setting either in real life or over Zoom
- Use all or part of the fact sheet depending on time constraints
- Post facts daily on social media i.e. Facebook or WhatsApp group
- Add a couple of facts to your cancer presentation
- Use facts in a work team meeting

How to evaluate

- How many facts you posted online?
- How many key messages were passed on?
- Were you able to have any 'brief advice' conversations? If so, how many?
- Any case studies? Did you have an interesting conversation which you can anonymise? I.e. Someone reports they understand the importance of screening and will now attend

Top Tips

- Send out fact sheet to people before or after an engagement session as part of your follow-up
- Can give as a handout at community facing engagements
- Fact sheets can be used to supplement and solidify any learning at engagement sessions
- Asking people if they want a copy of the fact sheet gives you a chance to add people to your contact database
- Collect data in line with GDPR regulations and display your Privacy Statement on any 'sign-up' documentation