

If you are invited for colposcopy, the Colposcopy Clinic will send you a copy of their leaflet 'Colposcopy Clinic'.

It is also possible to have an 'inadequate' result. This may be due to a technical problem, such as if the laboratory cannot get a HPV test result from your sample, or cannot see if abnormal cells are present or not.

If you have an inadequate result, you may be asked to have cervical screening again in 3 months' time. We wait so that there are enough cells again to get a sample from.

Can HPV be treated?

No, there isn't a treatment to get rid of the virus. For most women, their immune system will get rid of HPV - like getting rid of a common cold. But we can treat abnormal cervical cells, especially if they are found early on.

Early treatment means that cervical cancer can be prevented.

Where can I go for a test?

Your own doctor's surgery. The test can be done by a doctor or nurse. Please inform them if you change your address.

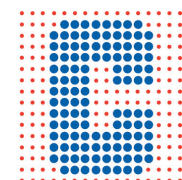
Alternatively, call Staywell Clinic for an appointment on Mondays or Thursdays between 9am and 2pm on 642638. Clinic appointments are available on Monday and Thursday evenings at 6.15pm, 6.40pm or 7.00pm

Where can I get more information?

If you would like more information about HPV primary screening, or anything else in this leaflet, you can:

- talk to your nurse at your GP practice
- read our leaflets at

www.gov.im/cervicalscreening



ISLE OF MAN
ANTI-CANCER
ASSOCIATION

We would like to thank the Isle of Man Anti-Cancer Association for funding the printing of this leaflet.

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Find out how the Isle of Man Department of Health and Social Care uses and protects your screening information at:

<https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/health-and-social-care/health-and-social-care-privacy-notice/>

To opt-out of screening visit:

www.gov.im/cervicalscreening

The information in this leaflet can be provided in large format or in audio format on request.

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Cervical Screening Programme

HEALTH PROTECTION



Cervical screening and Human Papillomavirus (HPV) testing



Isle of Man
Government
Reillys Eilan Vannin

HEALTH PROTECTION
Public Health Directorate

Please don't forget that routine cervical screening will continue to be important whether you have had the HPV vaccination or not.

This leaflet tells you about HPV testing. This is a test carried out on the sample of cells we take during cervical screening. It makes no difference to what happens at your screening appointment.

Looking for HPV as the first test on screening samples was introduced into the Isle of Man Cervical Screening Programme in August 2018. You may hear it being called '*HPV primary screening*'. It helps us to more quickly identify who may need treatment, and who can simply be called back for screening in 3 or 5 years' time.

For more information about going for screening, please read our leaflet '*Cervical screening: helping you decide*'.

Why have I been sent this leaflet?

The Isle of Man is one of the first areas within the UK where HPV primary screening is being used. Other UK areas will adopt this during 2019.

What is HPV?

HPV is a very common virus. Most women get it at some point in their lives. HPV can be easily passed on during sexual activity between partners. Some types of HPV can cause abnormal cells in the cervix. Our leaflet '*Cervical screening - helping you decide*' tells you more.

HPV primary screening

Once your cervical screening sample is sent to the laboratory, it will first be tested for HPV. If HPV is found, your sample will also be looked at for abnormal cells. Looking for abnormal cells is called 'cytology'. If you don't have HPV, then it is extremely unlikely that you will have any abnormal cervical cells.

Testing for HPV first should benefit women because:

- more abnormal cervical cells will be picked up
- women without HPV can be reassured that they are at extremely low risk of

developing cervical cancer (although we cannot say 'no risk')

- the information we are gathering during the introduction of HPV primary screening will help to improve the screening programme.

Are all Isle of Man women being offered HPV primary screening?

Yes.

Screening results

There are 3 main types of result from HPV primary screening.

No HPV found (HPV negative)

If no HPV is found then no further tests will be done. If you don't have HPV, it is highly unlikely that you will have any abnormal cervical cells.

Even if you did, it would be extremely unlikely that they would cause a problem. You will simply be called back for routine screening again in 3 or 5 years' time (depending on your age).

HPV found (HPV positive) but no abnormal cervical cells found

If HPV is found, the sample will also be tested for abnormal cervical cells. If none are found, your result will say you have HPV, but no abnormal cells.

You will be asked to come for screening again in 12 months' time. This is so we can check that your immune system has cleared the HPV (this happens in most cases). If it hasn't cleared, you may be at greater risk of developing abnormal cervical cells. If the HPV infection continues you will be referred for colposcopy.

HPV found (HPV positive) and abnormal cervical cells found

There are several grades of abnormal cells. Your result letter will explain what your results mean.

If you have HPV and any grade of abnormal cervical cells you will be referred for colposcopy.

Colposcopy is a closer examination of the cervix. It is carried out in a similar way to cervical screening.