

<http://www.gov.uk/topic/population-screening-programmes/cervical>

Now that you have had your cervical screening test

Keep this information sheet in a safe place ready for when you receive your test result. Your sample will now be sent to the laboratory for processing. The nurse who took your test will be sent the result within four weeks. You will be sent a letter also. When you get your letter you may want to discuss the result with the nurse who took the test.

What do the screening results mean?

- ◆ **High Risk HPV Negative.** Most samples do not test positive for high risk HPV. This is called a negative result. This means your risk of cervical cancer is very low indeed. If you have a negative result you will automatically be sent an invitation letter when it is time to attend for your next routine test. From age 25 to 49 this is 3 yearly, from 50 to 64 it is 5 yearly.
- ◆ **Inadequate sample** Very occasionally a sample is unreadable. If this happens, you will receive a letter explaining this and asking you to come and have another test.
- ◆ **High Risk HPV Positive – Cytology slide will be made**
 - **No cell changes**
You will be sent an invitation letter to attend for another test in 12 months time.
 - **Minor cell changes**
About 1 in 20 tests show minor changes to the cells of the cervix. These changes are known as 'borderline changes' or as 'low grade dyskaryosis'. You will be referred for an outpatient investigation called colposcopy.
 - **High grade cell changes**
About 1 in 100 tests have the type of cell changes that the screening programme is designed to pick up. These are known 'high grade dyskaryosis'. Nearly always these changes are **not** cancer, but they could occasionally lead to cancer after many years, if not treated. If you have these changes you will be offered an outpatient investigation called colposcopy. If necessary you will be offered treatment for the cell changes at the colposcopy clinic.

Please remember that cervical cancer is uncommon. Most changes to the cells of the cervix are NOT cancer and will either disappear on their own or can be easily treated.

What if I have symptoms?

If you have any unusual vaginal bleeding or discharge, please make an appointment with your doctor no matter when you had your last test or what the result was.

Sample Taker Name: