

Reviewing your cervical screening history

Gynae-Oncology

Other formats

If you need this information in another format such as audio CD, Braille, large print, high contrast, British Sign Language or translated into another language, please contact the PALS desk on 01271 314090 or at ndht.pals@nhs.net.

What the service offers

Cervical screening reduces the risk of developing cervical cancer. Regular screening is the best way to detect changes to the cervix early on, but like other screening tests it is not perfect. The National Cervical Screening Programme is estimated to prevent about 75% of all cervical cancers. As screening cannot prevent every single case we carry out regular reviews of our services.

Reviews are an essential part of every high-quality screening programme and are a routine part of the cervical screening process. Information we gather from individual cases helps to improve the programme and also helps us to learn more about how cancers develop and how they are diagnosed.

We have provided you with this leaflet because you have recently been diagnosed with (or treated for) cervical cancer and a review of your cervical screening history will be carried out. This is a systematic process of ensuring consistency in the national screening procedure and NOT to be seen as being of any concern.

The review will not in any way affect the care that you will receive from your doctors.

The review will be completed in a few months.

Once the review is completed, we will send you a letter asking you if you would like to have the results of your screening procedure review shared with you.

We appreciate this is a difficult time for you and it is completely your choice whether you want to know the results of your review.

If you do not wish to have this information straight away, you can change your mind at any time by contacting the clinical nurse specialists or secretaries. Telephone numbers are provided in the Further Information section in this leaflet.

What does the review involve?

We review all records connected to your cervical screening tests and any previous medical investigations related to cervical screening. A group of professionals then look again at your previous test results and your medical notes related to cervical screening.

What will the review show?

In most cases, the review will show that the correct procedures have been followed and that you received appropriate care. Sometimes, the review may find that one or more steps in the process have not worked as well as they should and may highlight where we could make improvements.

What happens if I want to know the results of the review?

We will write to you when the review is completed. The letter will include contact details so an appointment can be arranged to discuss the results with you.

What if I don't want to know the results of the review?

We understand this is a difficult time for you and it is completely up to you to decide whether or not you want to know the results of the review. It will not make any difference to your care.

Can my family ask for the results if I don't want to know?

No, unless you give permission, we cannot give your relatives access to any details of your medical records.

What happens to the information collected for my review?

We collect screening information as part of an ongoing process. Your information (without your name) will go towards improving the systems of the programme, and to help discover more about how cancers develop and how they are diagnosed and treated. This is done whether or not you want to know the results of the review.

References

Public Health England, Patient leaflet: reviewing your cervical screening history (updated 6 Mar 2021) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cervical-screening-disclosure-of-audit-results-toolkit/patient-leaflet-reviewing-your-cervical-screening-history>

Further information

If you have further questions, please contact:

Gynae-Oncology nursing service – Tel: 01271 370210

Secretary to Mr Eskandar (consultant gynaecologist) – Tel: 01271 322786

The following websites may be of interest:

www.jostrust.co.uk

www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern call 01271 314090 or email ndht.pals@nhs.net. You can also visit the PALS and Information Centre in person at North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple.

Have your say

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of staff or the PALS team in the first instance.

'Care Opinion' comments forms are on all wards or online at www.careopinion.org.uk.

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust
Raleigh Park, Barnstaple
Devon EX31 4JB
Tel. 01271 322577
www.northdevonhealth.nhs.uk

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Tel: 01271 313970 / email: ndht.contactus@nhs.net