

Transformation Zone



Cervical Screening Wales
Sgrinio Serfigol Cymru

December 2005

Liquid Based Cytology

Cervical Screening Wales would like to say thank you to all those who helped make Wales' conversion to Liquid Based Cytology run smoothly. All our laboratories are now converted and the majority of active smear takers have received training.

We have noticed, however, that large quantities of LBC consumables and extra HMR forms have been ordered, in some cases out of proportion to the number of smears being taken.

CSW does ask that these are not stockpiled, as they may go past their expiry date and have to be returned. The delivery system seems to be working well and supplies usually arrive within a week.

Website address change

The public website for CSW has been changed and is now: www.screeningservices.org.uk/csw
There is also a CSW Website available on HOWIS.

Retention of Specimens

In 'Cervical Screening – the facts', which is sent to women with their invitations for screening, we advise that their samples will be kept for at least 10 years and may be reviewed.

This review may be as part of quality assurance, or as part of a review after a discrepancy or cancer diagnosis. Samples may also be used for training purposes or as part of ethically approved research, on an anonymous basis.

Women can request that their smears are not used for training or research. If this is the case, please make a note on the HMR 101 form.

Smear Taker Guide

The amendments to the smear taker guide have now been completed and it will be printed and distributed shortly. The guide will also be available as a PDF on the CSW website.



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Feedback on new smear taker training

There has been good initial feedback on the new smear taker training course, which comprises:

- an e-learning programme
- a study day
- supervised practice
- a case report

E learning appears to be the way forward as it means that the practitioner can access the material at their convenience. The practical element only takes them away from the clinical area for one day instead of three, which due to ever increasing work commitments is proving popular with both Doctors and Nurses.

There have been some enquiries about Health Care Assistants attending the course. Cervical Screening Wales and the NHSCSP have both agreed not to support this as we feel that cervical screening is not just a task. There are many aspects to consider when taking a smear and often a clinical judgement needs to be made.

Infections on Cervical Smears

For smears taken on or after 12th December 2005, CSW will no longer inform women that they have a possible infection detected on their cervical smear. This is to reduce the anxiety and possible 'over treatment' of women who do not have symptoms. The result form will still state whether an infection was seen, and the smear taker can then decide whether the woman needs to be contacted or not, depending on any reported symptoms at the time of smear taking. It is important, therefore, to note any symptoms/signs at the time of smear taking, and check test results when they return.

Guidelines on the diagnosis and treatment of possible infections can be found at

www.bashh.org. (for most genital infections)

www.ffprhc.org.uk (for Actinomyces-like organisms – ALOs)

Women in whom a smear may be difficult to take

In general, two types of women fall into this category: -

1. Women with a physical disability who may be unable to assume a position to enable a smear to be taken
2. Women in whom the cervix is impossible to locate (e.g. after previous treatment to the cervix)

In the first group, a request can be made for a woman to be ceased from the screening programme, either by her GP or consultant, providing the following criteria have been met:-

- All options for smear taking have been considered (domiciliary visit, specialist beds, referral to colposcopy clinic)
- The request is with the woman's knowledge and consent

In the second group, a request can be made by the woman's colposcopist / consultant gynaecologist, providing the following criteria have been met: -

- All other options have been considered (general anaesthesia, dilatation of endocervical canal, hysterectomy)
- The request is with the woman's knowledge and consent

In these cases, the woman will receive a letter from CSW acknowledging the request and advising her that she can rejoin the screening programme at any time if she so chooses.

Renal Transplants

Women who have had renal transplants are not advised to have smears more frequently than the general population. However, if these women have a single abnormal smear (even a borderline), it is advised that they are referred for colposcopy. As CSW are not always aware of women who have had renal transplants, it is important for the practice to check the results of smears for these women, and inform CSW if they need to be referred.

DATES FOR SMEAR TAKER TRAINING 2006

24TH JANUARY Cathedral Road Cardiff
FEBRUARY Llanelli (to be confirmed)
14TH MARCH Archimedes Centre Wrexham
MAY Bridgend (to be confirmed)
4TH SEPTEMBER Glan Clwyd Hospital
16TH NOVEMBER Caerleon Gwent

If you are interested in a place on any of these courses, or would like further information, please either look at the website, or contact Linda Lewis on 07813 667318 (e-mail linda.lewis@cswwansea.wales.nhs.uk)

All-Wales Update Training

After the success of LBC training, we are extending the 'All-Wales' approach to update training. It is recommended that smear takers attend update sessions at least every 3 years. Update training will be restarting in early 2006, so look out for your local sessions.

Disclaimers etc

When a woman signs a CSW disclaimer requesting her withdrawal from the screening programme, she is informed that CSW will not contact her again although she can rejoin the programme at any time. However, the GMS contract states that these women should be contacted every 5 years to offer screening. It is hoped that the Welsh Assembly Government will in future allow GPs to work to CSW policy.

Some practices have produced their own disclaimers for women to sign and sent these to CSW. As these may not have all the information that CSW requires women to be aware of before withdrawing from the programme, some of these women will be sent a CSW disclaimer, which they will be asked to sign and return.

Hysterectomies over 5 years ago

Currently, CSW has a number of women on the call/recall database who appear to have had total hysterectomies, but are still being called for smears. This may be because they require vault smears, or may be because the information was received several years ago (pre-CSW).

CSW is identifying all those women who appear to have had a total hysterectomy (or Manchester repair) over 5 years ago. We will try to determine whether or not they have their cervix removed and, if they have, we will cease them from the screening programme. It is helpful if the histology of any hysterectomies/Manchester Repairs is sent to the CSAD, to ensure women receive the appropriate follow-up. These women will receive a letter informing them of this, with a copy to their GP.

Women who move out of the area

When women move out of Wales, their records are transferred to their new area when they register with a GP. However, women who are under the care of the colposcopy clinic when they move will need to ask their new GP to arrange for further colposcopy appointments. If you know of any women planning to move who are currently under the care of colposcopy clinic, please inform them of this.

Hello and Goodbye

- Dr Eithne Linnane has become the permanent Programme Coordinator in Gwent.
- Chris Owen has left as Nurse Coordinator in Dyfed Powys. She is studying for an MBA.
- Bethan Morgan has joined us as Nurse Co-ordinator for Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Swansea.
- Jayne Davies has now left.