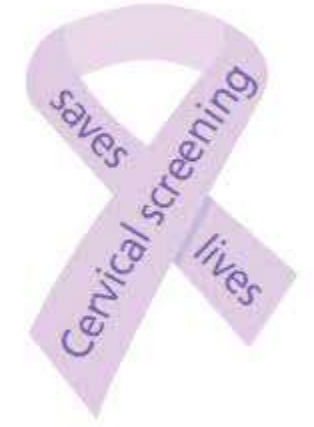




What is Cervical Screening?



Welcome!

You will find out more about:

- ✓ Why Cervical Screening is important
- ✓ Who needs to have a Cervical Screening test
- ✓ Where can you go to have a test
- ✓ What happens when you have a test
- ✓ Who you can speak to for more information



Some important words to understand and remember



Cancer

Your body is made of small parts called cells. Sometimes the cells go wrong. This may be cancer.



Lots of people are cured of cancer, especially if it is found early.



Cervix

We will talk about your cervix. The cervix is inside your body at the top of your vagina. You cannot see it.

Vagina

People use different words for their vagina like:

front bottom

flower

down below

fanny

private parts

foof

In this presentation, we say **vagina**.



CERVICAL CANCER



Cervical cancer

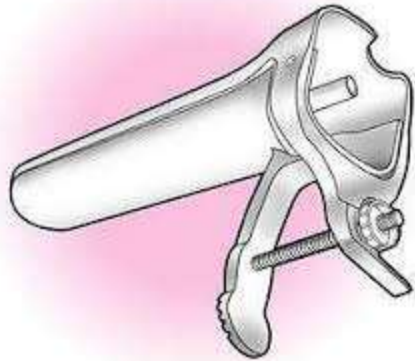
A cancer in your cervix.

Smear test

Cervical Screening is sometimes called a smear test.

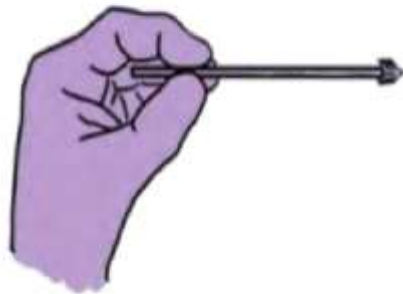
A smear test looks for changes to the cells of your cervix. It is not a test for cancer. Finding changes before they turn into cancer can help stop cervical cancer.





Speculum

When you have a screening test, your nurse needs to see your cervix. They use a speculum made of plastic to gently open your vagina.



Brush

When you have a smear test, your doctor or nurse uses a small brush to take cells from your cervix.

Why is it important to have a cervical screening test?



Having a screening test saves 5000 women's lives every year. It could save your life.

I need a cervical screening test if I am....



A woman

I need a cervical screening test if I am...



I am having or have had sex
with a man or a woman or
have had sexual touching



I need a cervical screening test if I am...



I am over 25. If you are aged 25 to 49, you can have a smear test every 3 years. If you are aged 50 or older, you can have a smear test every 5 years.

Where do I have a cervical smear test?



Your doctor should send a letter asking you to book a smear test. If they do not send a letter, ask them for a smear test.



Appointments are usually booked with a nurse. You can take a friend with you if you would like.



Your doctor has also asked us to contact you to book you a smear test either at your own practice or with one of our friendly nurses close to where you live.



You should book a date when you are not on your period.

What happens when I have a cervical smear?



You will be asked to get undressed from the waist down including underwear.



When you are comfortable, the nurse will position you correctly and will ask you to open your legs so that they can put an object called a speculum inside your vagina and will use a small brush to take a sample of cells from your cervix.



The test can be slightly uncomfortable but should not hurt. If it hurts tell the nurse to stop.



This actual procedure is very quick and should only take 5 minutes.



Who do I contact for more information?



Your Doctor



Learning Disability Team at Parkview

Phone: 020 8383 6464

Email: LDTeamInfo@lbhf.gov.uk
hf.gpfed@nhs.net



Learning Disability Team at St Marks Rd



Phone: 020 7313 6804



Email: asc.learningdisability@rbkc.gov.uk

Westminster Learning Disability Partnership



Phone: 0207 641 7411



Email: wldp@westminster.gov.uk