

HPV cervical screening from CervicalCheck



All women and people with a cervix aged 25-65 are eligible for free HPV cervical screening with CervicalCheck.

Cervical screening is a test to identify those at increased risk of developing cancer. It is not a test for cancer.

Most cervical cancers are caused by human papillomavirus (HPV). In most cases, it takes 10 to 15 years for a HPV infection to develop into cervical cancer. Anyone who has ever had sexual contact is at risk of HPV, no matter your sexuality or your current sexual activity.

Having HPV doesn't mean you will develop cervical cancer – most people will get some type of HPV during their lives but their immune system clears it.

HPV cervical screening checks your cell samples for HPV. If HPV is found, the same sample will be checked for abnormal cells.

- ✓ If you are **aged 25 to 29**, you will usually have a cervical screening test **every 3 years**.
- ✓ If you are **aged 30 to 65**, you will usually have a cervical screening test **every 5 years**.

People aged 25 to 29 are screened more often because they are more likely to have HPV. It is safe for people aged 30 to 65 to wait 5 years between tests if you do not have a HPV infection. This is because the HPV screening test is a better test than the previous 'smear' test at predicting your risk of developing cell changes.

HPV cervical screening is one of the best ways to protect yourself from cervical cancer. Talk to your GP or practice nurse if you have concerns. They may be able to make the screening test more comfortable for you.

Find out more at
hse.ie/cervicalcheck




CervicalCheck
THE NATIONAL CERVICAL SCREENING PROGRAMME

