



# What happens in a personal cervical screening review

## Your review request

When you request a review, we will ask you for your permission to look at your medical records.

### Consent for medical records

Hospitals hold your medical records. We need your consent to access them.

We need to look at your medical records to make sure we have the relevant information to go ahead with your request for a review.

These are different to your National Screening Service records.

### Your medical records

- colposcopy notes - these are notes the doctors and nurses made if you attended colposcopy
- histology (biopsy) records - these include samples taken from your cervix and reports on these samples if you attended colposcopy
- notes from multidisciplinary team meetings - meetings doctors held if they met to talk about the best way forward for your case.

Within 3 months of receiving your permission we will write to you to let you know if your records show that we can do a review.

## If we cannot proceed with a review

If your medical records show a reason why we cannot proceed with a review, we will write to you to tell you why.

## If we can proceed with a review

We will transfer your slides, notes and reports to external reviewers.

It will take us up to 18 months to complete your review.

## The review process

There are three steps in the review process.

We will:

- let you know we are starting the review and invite you to an introductory meeting (ideally within 3 months of you granting us permission to look at your medical records)
- do a review of your case and write a report (ideally within 12 months of your first meeting)
- meet you to give you your report and discuss it with you (ideally within 3 months of completing your review).

If there is a delay we will let you know.

We will give you the contact details of the person who will be your point of contact during your review. You can contact us at any stage during the review.

For each part of the review we will compare your care against the quality assurance standards of the time.

## **What we look at during your review**

In your personal cervical screening review, we will look at your screening history to see if there is anything we could have done differently.

### **How we invited you to screening**

We will check we followed the correct invitation processes. This means we will look at how we invited you and reminded you to attend for screening.

### **Your screening test results**

We will look at your CervicalCheck cytology (smear) samples and HPV test results from the 10 years before your diagnosis. The external reviewers will look at the slides and give a result.

### **Your colposcopy care**

If you had a colposcopy as a follow-up to your CervicalCheck screening tests, an external reviewer will look at the care you received and your notes from the multidisciplinary team meetings.

## **Your histology results**

We will look at your biopsy samples from the 10 years before your diagnosis. The external reviewer will look at the slides and give a result.

## **What happens when we look back at your screening slides**

We can estimate from data from other countries that for every 100 screening slides taken from women\* who have developed cervical cancer, around 60 of the slides will have a review result that is satisfactory. Around 35 will have a result of satisfactory within limitations and about 5 will have a result of unsatisfactory. For every 100 slides reviewed, we expect to find that around 5 slides should have been read differently. This means that a small number of women will be told that an error was made in the reading of their slide. When this happens our clinical review team will answer your questions and talk to you about your concerns. This can be devastating news to hear. We will listen and respond to all your questions.

\* Please note, throughout this leaflet, where we refer to 'women', we mean 'women, or people with a cervix'

## Report on your screening history

We will write a report as part of the review. We will report on the following areas of care:

1. How we invited you to screening
2. Your screening test results
3. Your colposcopy care
4. Your histology results

There are 3 possible findings in relation to your report. We will look at each of the 4 areas and say if your care was satisfactory, satisfactory within limitations or unsatisfactory.

### 1. How we invited you to screening

#### Satisfactory

The reviewers find no improvements could have been made in how we managed your screening invitations. You were invited for your screening and follow-up procedures as you should have been.

#### Satisfactory within limitations

The reviewers find that we could have improved how we managed your screening invitations.

#### Unsatisfactory

Reviewers find they would have changed how we managed your screening invitations.

## 2. Your screening test results

#### Satisfactory

The reviewers found the same result on your previous cytology (smear) sample when they looked back.

#### Satisfactory within limitations

The reviewers saw some small differences on your previous sample. They report that they would not expect a skilled screener to pick up these differences at the time of screening. This is because they are classified as 'difficult to find'.

#### Unsatisfactory

The reviewers saw some differences on your previous sample. They report that they would expect a skilled screener to pick up these differences at the time of screening.

## 3. Your colposcopy care

#### Satisfactory

Your colposcopy care was in line with the CervicalCheck programme quality assurance standards in place at the time of your appointment. The reviewer finds they would have made no changes to your care plan.

#### Satisfactory within limitations

The colposcopy care was in line with the CervicalCheck programme quality assurance standards in place at the time of your appointment, but the reviewer finds they may have made some changes to your care plan.

## Unsatisfactory

Your colposcopy care was not in line with the CervicalCheck programme quality assurance standards in place at the time of your appointment, and the reviewer finds they would have made changes to your care plan.

## 4. Your histology results

### Satisfactory

The reviewers found the same result on your previous histology sample when they looked back.

### Satisfactory within limitations

The reviewers saw some small differences on your previous sample. They report that they would not expect a skilled histopathologist to pick up these differences.

### Unsatisfactory

The reviewers saw some differences on your previous sample. They report that they would expect a skilled histopathologist to pick up these differences.

## Patient safety incident

If during our review process we find there was a patient safety incident, this will be managed in line with the HSE Incident Management Framework and the HSE Open Disclosure Policy.

We will examine what happened, report it and let you know as part of your review results meeting. You can find out more about what happens when a patient safety incident is found on [www.hse.ie/incidentmanagement](http://www.hse.ie/incidentmanagement)

## Meeting with you

Our team will meet with you twice during your review. We will accommodate your needs as much as possible. We recommend you bring someone with you to these meetings.

### Introductory meeting

The first meeting will be an opportunity for you to tell us about your screening history and for us to take you through what to expect from the review process. You will meet with members of our team who specialise in the area of screening. We may not be able to answer all of your questions until your review is complete but knowing your questions will help us to focus the review on what matters to you. We will create a review plan with you. At any stage in the review process you can decide to stop your review.

## Review results meeting

The second meeting will take you through the results of your review. We recommend you bring a support person to your review results meeting. We will go through the final report with you in as much detail as you want and we will give you your report to take home with you. We will answer your questions and go through the next steps.

## Supports during your review

After the review meeting you may need some time to think about the information in your review report. You can contact us at any time. We will also give you information about external supports which may be helpful to you.

## Your feedback matters

We welcome your feedback throughout the review process. We want to hear about:

- what is working
- what we could improve
- what is not working.

If you would like to tell us what is or is not working for you, you can contact us at: [your.say@screeningservice.ie](mailto:your.say@screeningservice.ie) or you can give your feedback to an independent advocate.

More information on how to provide feedback is available at [www.hse.ie/cervicalcheck/PCSR](http://www.hse.ie/cervicalcheck/PCSR)

At the end of the review, we will also ask you to complete a short questionnaire. This will help us to continually improve our review process.

## Impact of your screening review on your care

The report will not impact your current care. Your doctor will not make different decisions based on the result of your review. You may have questions about whether your care would have been different if a different result was given in the past. We will do our best to answer any questions you have in an open and transparent way.

## How we manage your data

To complete your review, we need to collect all of your relevant healthcare and medical records. Most of this information is held by the hospital that has been involved in your screening and treatment. With your consent we will retrieve these records and complete the review. We will share the results of the review with you and with the relevant clinical staff. When the review is complete, we will return your records to the hospitals. If you withdraw your consent, we will stop using your data for the review. You can read more and find out about how your data is managed in the Privacy Notice available on [www.hse.ie/cervicalcheck/personalinformation](http://www.hse.ie/cervicalcheck/personalinformation)

## Contact information

Website: [www.hse.ie/cervicalcheck/PCSR](http://www.hse.ie/cervicalcheck/PCSR)

Email: [review.request@screeningservice.ie](mailto:review.request@screeningservice.ie)

Phone: 01 865 9350 or 087 409 0149



An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Scagthástála  
National Screening Service