



Transformation Zone

I'M HAVING IT—ARE YOU?

All over Wales women are having it. If you're between 20 and 64 you'll be invited for a smear test every 3 years.

A Smear Test. Have it. www.screeningservices.org



"I'm having it."

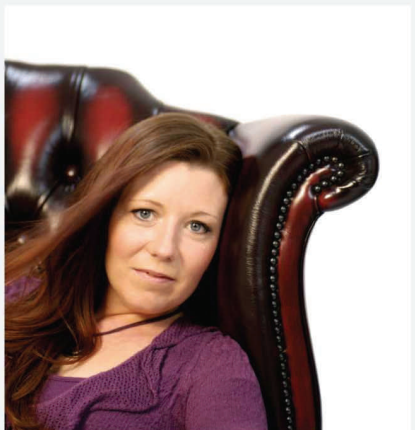


Ar hyd a led Cymru mae merched yn ei gael. Os ydych chi'ng 20 a 64 ceu'ch wahoddiad am brawf taeniad bob 3 blynedd.

Prawf Taeniad. Dyma'ch cyflie. www.screeningservices.org



"Dwi'n ei gael e."



Concerns that fewer women are having cervical smears has led to a bilingual advertising campaign that raises awareness of cervical cancer. Statistics from Cervical Screening Wales show that only 75% of eligible women went for their smear test last year, compared with 85% in 1992. The target is at least 80%.

The TV and cinema commercial, 'I'm Having It', has been shown at peak viewing slots on ITV Wales from 12th April and at cinemas throughout Wales from 16th April. Posters have been displayed in cinema foyers and above the hand dryers in female washrooms. Two large 48 sheet poster sites at Asda Coryton and Cowbridge Road have also been taken.

Cervical cancer rates in the UK have halved since the 1980s largely due to most women having regular smear tests and it is estimated that screening saves up to 5,000 lives a year. However, almost 30,000 women still die in Europe each year from cervical cancer where there is no comparable screening programme.

Younger women between 20 and 24 are less likely to attend than any other age group with fewer than four out of every 10 in some areas of Wales having the test. Research shows that women over 50 years no longer think it is applicable to them but it is still as important to be screened as you get older.

"We hope that the campaign will make a big impact on all women and sends a clear message that encourages them to consider the benefits of screening and as a result decide to attend for their smear test." said Dr Hilary Fielder, Director of Screening Services.



HPV INFORMATION

Many women are asking their GPs, Practice Nurses, clinic staff or indeed CSADs for information on Human Papillomavirus. Awareness has been increased by articles about HPV vaccines in newspapers and magazines. Some of the information that they have been given has not been very accurate and has led to some confusion.

Cervical Screening Wales has produced some information for women which is available on the website at: -

www.screeningservices.org.uk/csw/pub/hpv/index.asp

The Royal College of Nursing has also produced an information leaflet for professionals, which is available either via the 'Links' on the CSW website, or at: -

www.rcn.org.uk/publications/pdf/hpv_leaflet.pdf

TRANSCRIBING ERRORS

All incidents reported by Cervical Screening Wales are discussed at the Risk Management Group. Recently, it has been noted that large numbers of 'transcription errors' have been seen. This is when information is incorrectly put onto the HMR101 (smear request) form. Extra work is then caused as the CSADs have to contact the practice/clinic where the smear was taken to check a woman's details. Sometimes, it can result in the wrong woman being sent a test result.

To reduce the risk of this happening, it is recommended that smear takers: -

- Check a woman's details (name, date of birth, address) as part of the consultation before a smear
- Check that the details on the form match those on the vial
- Amend any incorrect details on the woman's records and ensure that local patient data services are informed

A new software system which is being used in GP surgeries across Wales produces trace labels for the HMRs and vials.

It's a great new development and will hopefully reduce discrepancies and mismatches. However in some areas the surgeries have been including patient telephone numbers on the labels, some of which are ex-directory. Practices should only include necessary information on the labels.

If you have any comments, suggestions or items that you would like to see covered in future issues, please contact Dr Louise Pickford, North Wales Programme Coordinator at louise.pickford@cswmold.wales.nhs.uk

TRAINING CLINICS IN WALES

Cervical Screening Wales has established monthly training clinics throughout Wales that are facilitated by Specialist Nurses in each region. The purpose of these clinics is: -

- to provide a regular venue to train and assess new smear takers who are attending approved Cervical Screening Wales training courses and who have difficulty accessing an approved mentor
- to give extra support to smear takers who require this training to improve smear taking performance
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If you would like further information or to book a training session, please contact the Nurse Coordinator in your local Cervical Screening Administration Department.

Training Clinic Venues

Blaen Y Cwm Surgery, Brynmawr – Mal Smith

Central Clinic, Swansea – Linda Lewis

Lakeside Medical Practice, Rhyl - Linda Hughes

Woodlands Surgery, Ely, Cardiff - Christine Lloyd

Pond Street Clinic, Carmarthen - Rose Thomas



Mal Smith with Nurse Nichola Hathaway and 'patient' Nurse Mary Jenkins from Brynmawr LHB

SCREENING LINK PERSON

Do you have a screening link person in your practice/clinic, and if so, do you know who your screening link person is?

Most GP surgeries in Wales have now got an identified screening link person who has attended a training session and who is the main point of contact between Cervical Screening Wales/Breast Test Wales and primary care.

A resource website (password protected) is now running, with relevant forms, current information, policies and guidance.

For further information, please contact your local Nurse Coordinator.



Screening Link Person Training Sessions

BORDERLINE ? HIGH GRADE SMEARS

When a woman has a smear that is reported as showing 'borderline changes', the usual recommendation is that it is repeated after 6 months. Sometimes, these women are referred to colposcopy if they have had previous abnormal smears. However, occasionally smears as reported as 'borderline ? High grade' and referral to colposcopy is advised immediately. This is because the cytologist felt that they could not rule out more severe changes, and they would like a colposcopist to investigate further.

In these cases, if no abnormality or up to CIN 1 is found, the woman would have cytological surveillance (for 2 years). If CIN 2 or worse is found, the woman would have appropriate treatment and 10 years of follow-up.

In a recent audit in North Wales, of 55 women who attended colposcopy clinic after a 'borderline ? High grade' referral smear, 40 had CIN 1 or worse. Of these, 23 had CIN 3 and 1 had invasive cancer. It is very important, therefore, that these women do attend the colposcopy clinic when they are referred.

INAPPROPRIATELY CEASED WOMEN

Some women may have had their recall for cervical screening ceased in the past, either from information on HMR forms, telephone calls, Prior Notification lists (PNLs) or letters. Recently we have had several incidents of women who have been inappropriately ceased in the past and whose recall is now reinstated.

Cervical Screening Wales now asks for further information to be certain that ceasing recall is appropriate. However, there may be some women who are not receiving invitations due to incorrect information in the past. If you do see any women who you think should be receiving invitations, but are not, please contact your local CSAD and let us know.

AUDIT OF CERVICAL CANCERS

In December 2006, NHS Cancer Screening Programmes (NHSCSP) produced a document entitled 'Audit of Invasive Cervical Cancers'. This gives national guidelines on how to undertake the audit, and defines roles and responsibilities. The information gathered will be added to a national database established by Cancer research UK (CRUK). The aims of the audit are to: -

- provide educational feedback to all those involved in the cervical screening programme
- contribute to the monitoring of changes introduced into the programme
- identify areas of good practice, and areas where the programme may be failing

In Wales, a project board has been set up to oversee the development of a Welsh database that will collect all the information required by CRUK, plus any extra information identified by the project board. This has been christened the CSW Audit of Cervical Cancers (CSWACC). It is hoped that this will be up and running by the end of 2007.

The local Programme Coordinators will be gathering most of the information and so may be in contact with primary care for further details about some women.

ORDERING LBC SUPPLIES



If you require extra supplies of items found in the LBC kits—e.g. extra Cervex brushes, extra forms etc then these can be ordered separately to the entire kits. Sometimes more than one Cervex brush may be required for a woman and this can lead to extra kits being ordered and opened, just for extra brushes.

Items can be ordered on the usual order form. If you have any difficulties in obtaining standard or additional supplies please contact Mrs Linda Jarman, LBC coordinator on 02920 787883