



## Thank you

Cervical Screening London (CSL) would like to take this opportunity to thank all of its users for their support as we approach our second anniversary. It has been a challenging two years for everyone in healthcare, but the success of cervical screening in London is a testament to everyone's efforts.

## Survey

A special note of thanks to all of those who completed our recent survey. CSL is reviewing the feedback and how we can improve our service. We are fully committed to working with our colleagues in primary and secondary care to ensure a high quality cervical screening service for the women of London.

## HPV Self sampling update

CSL has been privileged to support the YouScreen HPV self-sampling study. Self-sampling is likely to become the next big game changer in the cervical screening programme.

# YouScreen

Cervical Screening Made Easier

Report from the YouScreen team below:

## YouScreen is ending soon

YouScreen, the HPV self-sampling study underway in North Central and North East London, will close to sample offers on 30th November 2021 and sample analysis on 31st December 2021. All GP practices have made a **fantastic effort** during the pandemic to offer eligible women the opportunity to complete their cervical screening using the YouScreen self-sample kit.

**A huge THANK YOU to all those who helped make the study a great success.** A wide range of healthcare professionals have been involved in making these offers, such as health care assistants, practice nurses, physician associates, GPs and practice pharmacists.

We expect to achieve close to our target of 10,000 samples returned by the end of the year.

Feedback has indicated how useful this offer has been in getting women who do not attend for cervical screening to complete it. *"This is the best cervical screen I have had and I wish it was made available a long time ago"*. A patient who was overdue for 18 years because of a terrible smear experience *"did the kit in the room when she came in with a shoulder issue"*.

If you have been offering YouScreen self-sampling kits, we would love to hear from you about your experience. Please email us at [youscreen@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:youscreen@kcl.ac.uk)

We look forward to bringing you results from the study in 2022.

The YouScreen study is led by King's College London in partnership with North Central London Cancer Alliance, North East London Cancer Alliance, NHS England / Improvement, Public Health England, NHS Digital and Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust. The study is sponsored by UCL and coordinated by the Cancer Research UK & King's College London Cancer Prevention Trials Unit.

## HPVValidate self-sampling study

HPVValidate is the name of the national HPV self-sampling study, which is in Phase 1 evaluation of sampling devices. CSL is starting to receive samples as recruitment picks up pace. We will keep you posted on this exciting study.

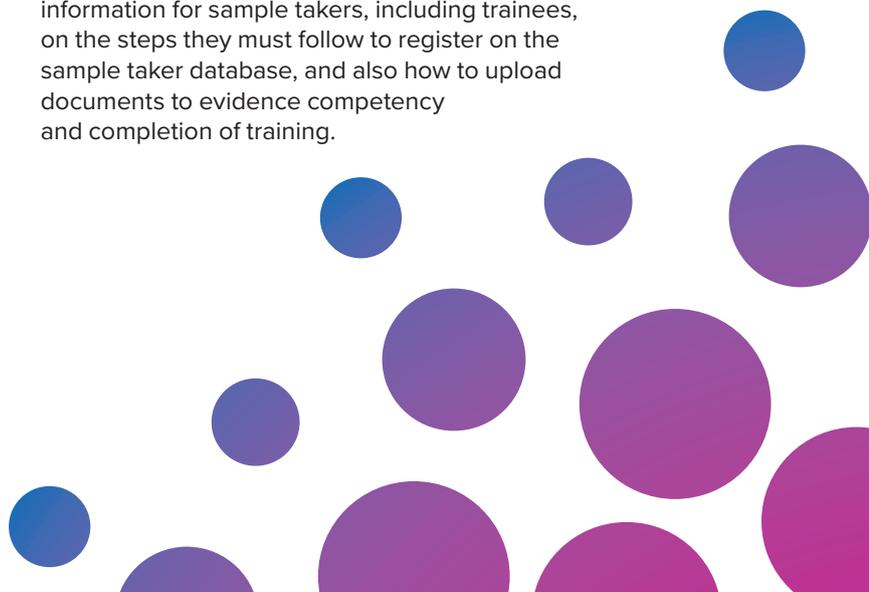
## London sample taker database (CSTD)

CSL has taken over management of the CSTD from NHSE and is in the process of conducting an audit to update the database, which currently has close to 8,000 sample takers registered. This is a complex and time consuming piece of work and one which can only be successfully completed with your assistance.

## Completion of questionnaire

Hopefully your practice/clinic will have already received a questionnaire by email to list the sample takers within your practice and their current PIN number. The initial response has been excellent but to speed up completion of the audit, responses need to be completed by Friday 17th December 2021. You can contact the CSTD Administrator directly by emailing [csl.cstd@nhs.net](mailto:csl.cstd@nhs.net)

The guidance for sample takers that was sent out in October has also been included in this communication as an easy one-page reference to raise awareness and cascade as appropriate. It contains detailed information for sample takers, including trainees, on the steps they must follow to register on the sample taker database, and also how to upload documents to evidence competency and completion of training.



## Turnaround times and reporting delays – some interesting facts

- Sample takers across London have taken over 725,000 samples in the last 12 months, which CSL have processed and reported, and 88% within the 14-day turnaround
- HPV negative samples approximately 85% of the total workload are resulted within 3-6 days
- >100,000 samples test HPV positive and require the additional step of reflex cytology which takes longer to get a result
- Of these HPV positive samples, 40% will show an abnormality on cytology and require a referral to colposcopy
- We anticipate an increase in colposcopy referrals of HPV positive/cytology negative cases over time as we reach the third year of HPV primary testing.

The main delays have occurred with HPV positive cases that show an abnormality on cytology, hence requiring a consultant report. The majority of pathologists who report cytology also report histopathology and are experiencing a surge in case workload post pandemic as the NHS tries to catch up on surgical waiting lists. This impacts cytology reporting as the same pool of staff is involved. The service has been working hard to reduce the backlog in cytology reporting.

The good news is that our Medical Director is working hard behind the scenes with CSL to create additional reporting capacity and sustainable reporting capability for the future.

## Key messages on sample transport and courier collection

Timely sample collection and delivery to the CSL laboratory is important for turnaround times. We kindly ask for your cooperation on the following:

Sample transport bags must be sealed and barcodes attached ahead of courier collection. This is the responsibility of the practice/clinic to minimise the risk of losing samples during transport.

### **COURIERS ARE INSTRUCTED NOT TO COLLECT OPEN TRANSPORT BAGS**

Do not place non-cervical samples, such as bloods, swabs, biopsies etc., in purple transport bags. The bags are clearly marked 'Cervical Screening London' and should contain cervical samples ONLY.



CSL continues to receive in excess of 300 non-cervical samples every month. The impact is twofold; firstly, unnecessary patient anxiety as repeat samples are often required, placing additional pressure on practices to find appointments in this busy winter period.

Secondly, additional laboratory resource is required to manage the discard and return of non-cervical samples. It may be beneficial to speak to your practice manager to clarify transport routes and courier collections within your own setting.

Ensure samples are sent via the dedicated courier collection service that CSL has put in place. There have been occasions when samples from primary care have been incorrectly sent to local pathology departments. This causes confusion and delays whilst increasing the risk of samples getting lost during transport.

### **Help us help you by GETTING IT RIGHT FIRST TIME**

The CSL team would like to sign off by thanking you again for all your hard work in supporting us throughout 2021 and we look forward to working closely with you in 2022.

*Wishing you a happy and, above all, safe 2022.*

For further information: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cervical-screening-cervical-sample-taker-training>

For all enquiries, please call 020 7460 4851 or email [csl.queries@nhs.net](mailto:csl.queries@nhs.net).

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