

Great work everyone – London's cervical screening recovery is looking good!



The table below, reflecting data supplied by PHE and NHSE/I, shows a comparison of London's cervical screening tests taken in primary care in the months April 2019 – March 2020 and April 2020 – March 2021.

YEAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	TOTAL
2019–2020	40508	40727	40913	40818	41042	41085	41139	41261	41283	41554	41761	41541	493632
2020–2021	932	1229	9073	43341	46992	48587	47851	50829	53926	59180	65698	70547	498185
DIFFERENCE	-39576	-39498	-31840	2523	5950	7502	6712	9568	12643	17626	23937	29006	4553

The effects of the early pandemic can be clearly seen in the months April – June 2020 but equally as notable is the steady recovery that followed, with March 2021 seeing some 29,000 more screening tests referred than the same month in 2020.

CSL continues to report healthy screening numbers with over 58,000 samples in May, and 62,500 samples in June.

This recovery has taken the determination and energy of all involved in cervical screening – so congratulations all on a job well done for the women of London!

Changes to t-Quest will be introduced from August 1

From August 1, 2021 the following t-Quest changes will be introduced to make the collection of accurate information easier for sample takers and the laboratory.

- **LMP status:** The drop-down calendar to enter the date of LMP will remain. However, an additional field will be added to allow sample takers to note if LMP status is known, unknown or postmenopausal. This information is important when assessing cellular features on cytology.
- **IUCD fitted:** A field to note if the patient has an IUCD fitted will be added. This information is important when assessing cellular features on cytology.
- **Immunocompromised will become Retroviral Infection (RVI):** Current screening guidelines indicate that a 12-month repeat screening test only applies to patients immunocompromised due to retroviral infection. The term will be changed in t-Quest from 'Immunocompromised' to 'Retroviral Infection (RVI)' to help remind sample takers of this guidance.
- **Test of Cure will become Seen in Colposcopy in the Last Two Years:** To decrease the instances of sample takers incorrectly answering 'Y' to the 'Test of Cure' query, this field will now ask you to indicate if the woman has been 'Seen in Colposcopy in the Last Two Years'. **Please assist by answering this correctly.** The laboratory will check the colposcopy outcomes where a 'Y' response has been returned.

Do you know how to cease a patient that appears on your PNL?

If a patient appearing on your PNL (prior notification list) no longer requires screening, you can cease their screening reminders in Open Exeter by choosing the reasons: Age or No Cervix in the PNL.

Once this has been done there is no need to submit a 'ceasing form'.

For more information on ceasing or delaying screening reminders, and to access forms for patients who have not yet appeared on your PNL, go to <https://www.csas.nhs.uk/support/>. To submit delay/cease forms use the link <https://www.csas.nhs.uk/contact-us/>.

Were your CSL samples picked up by a CSL courier?

As practices become larger, they often have multiple couriers from a variety of laboratories and hospitals picking up samples each day. Information on the courier who collected a sample bag is critical when following up missing samples.

CSL recommend that all practices, in both primary and secondary care, keep a logbook to record the date and time of each pick-up as well as the name of the provider the courier represents and the individual courier's signature.

Can you help us reduce the number of rejected samples?

In June CSL released a position statement on out of programme samples which was distributed by NHSE and CCG networks. It can also be accessed on our website www.hslpathology.com/csl.

We were recently asked for feedback on the numbers and reasons for rejected samples. The table below shows this data for the period 01/04/20 to 31/03/2021.

Numbers and reasons for rejected samples	TOTAL
E1 – Vial received without form	110
E2 – Form received without vial	74
E3 – Vial is unlabelled	827
E4a – Vial is only partially labelled	298
E4b – Multiple minor discrepancies (two or more)	244
ES – Patient details on form and vial do not match	224
E6 – Insufficient patient details on form	24
E7 – Patient details differ from cytology records	4
E8 – Valid PIN not provided	
E9 – Samples in poor condition: Vial spilt in transit/brush inappropriately missing or present/insufficient fluid	89
E 10 – Form/vial details illegible	12
E 11 – Out of programme sample (age, too early repeat, inappropriate vault)	1796
E 12 – Out of date vial	29
Combined total	3731

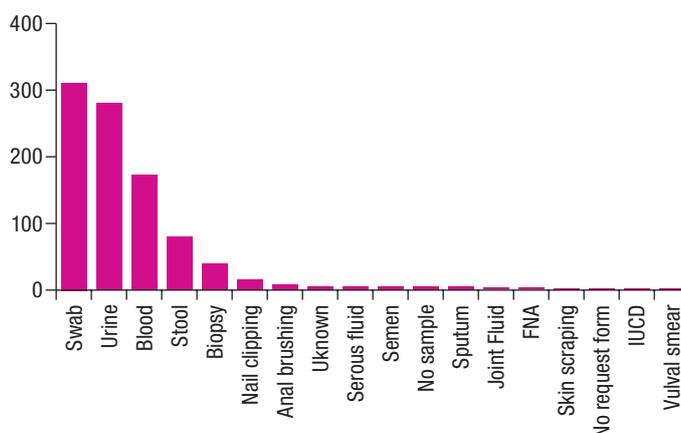
While out of programme samples due to age, early repeat, and vault specimens constitute nearly 50% of rejected samples, a further 40% are rejected due to unlabelled/ mislabelled vials and missing or non-matching forms.

Please ensure forms and vials are correctly labelled and details confirmed by the patient before she leaves the surgery.

CSL will no longer forward or return non-cervical samples

The issue of sample takers sending non-cervical samples in the purple CSL-only sample transport bags remains a significant and frustrating problem.

The chart below shows the number and types of samples erroneously packed in CSL bags in just 3 months.



Despite repeated requests for this practice to stop, this number has continued to grow with over 1,800 non-cervical samples being received at CSL since the beginning of the year.

From July 1, 2021 CSL will no longer return or forward repeatable non-cervical samples found in CSL transport bags.

Sample takers will be notified the specimen has been received. Repeatable samples will be stored for 3 days prior to discard to allow the surgery the option to arrange collection from the CSL laboratory. Non-repeatable samples such as biopsies and CSFs will not be discarded.

Never pack non-cervical samples in purple CSL sample transport bags. If you do, you risk the sample being discarded which will negatively impact timely diagnosis and patient care.

For further information contact David.ricketts@hslpathology.com or csl.queries@nhs.net

Here's your chance to tell us what you think of us

The link below will take you to the first ever CSL user survey and we would very much appreciate your feedback to help us improve our service. Thank you in advance!

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/J836SLM>

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