

Cervical Screening

Cancer of the cervix (neck of the womb) can be prevented. By carrying out a simple examination - a cervical smear test - early changes in the cervix can be detected, well before the onset of cancer and if treatment is necessary it is simple and effective. The whole idea of the test is to ensure that if there is a risk of cancer, it is caught very early, well before it becomes a problem.

From 1st September 2004, women aged 25 to 64 are eligible for a free cervical smear test on the NHS every 3 to 5 years.

- Women will first be invited for a routine smear at 25 years

Cervical cancer is extremely rare under 25 but changes in the cervix are common. Screening women from the age of 25 will still prevent cancers from developing many years later, and will prevent younger women undergoing unnecessary tests or investigations.

- Women aged 25 to 49 will still be invited for a smear test every three years
- Women aged 50 to 64 will be invited for a smear test every five years.

If you have any worrying symptoms or if you are concerned about your risk of cervical cancer, please speak contact the surgery.