

References

NHSCSP Audit of invasive cervical cancers Publication 28 2006
ULHT Disclosure of results of invasive cervical cancer audit 2015

Your notes or questions

Please write down any questions you have and bring them with you to your appointment.

The Trust endeavours to ensure that the information given here is accurate and impartial.



If you require this information in another language, large print, audio (CD or tape) or braille please email the Patient Information team at patient.information@ulh.nhs.uk

CARING FOR YOU

NHS
United Lincolnshire
Hospitals
NHS Trust

Reviewing your cervical screening history

Gynaecology Departments

www.ulh.nhs.uk

Reviewing your cervical screening history

We know that this is a difficult time for you and naturally you will be concerned about your treatment and future health. However, you may also be wondering why you have developed cervical cancer, particularly if you have had cervical screening tests (often known as smear tests) in the past.

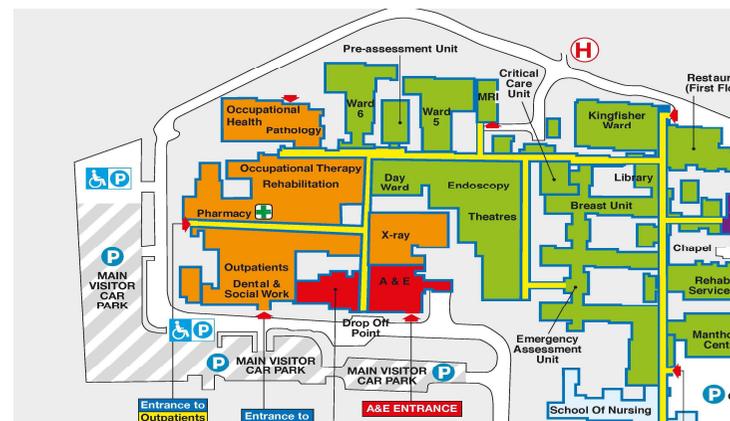
Cervical screening reduces the risk of developing cervical cancer. Regular screening is the best way to detect changes to the cervix early on, but like other screening tests it is not perfect.

The cervical screening process involves many different steps which aim to identify and treat abnormal cells on the cervix to prevent cervical cancer. It may be that all steps have been followed efficiently and that a cervical cancer has developed despite the screening programme working properly. Or, it could be that at one or more of these steps, something may not have worked as well as it should. Reviewing your previous tests will help identify if anything should have been done differently.

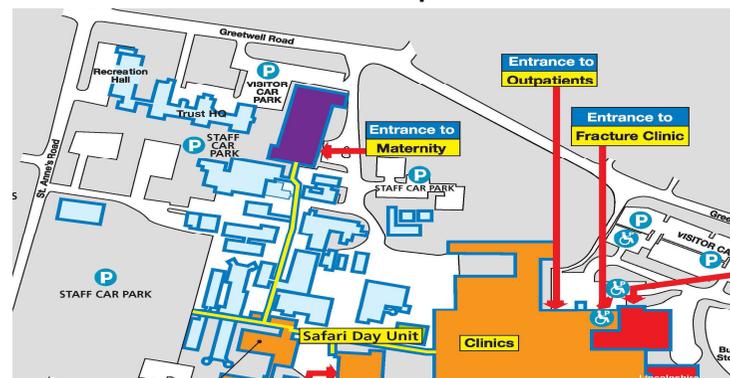
Reviews are an essential part of every high-quality screening programme and are a routine part of the cervical screening process. Information we gather from individual cases helps to improve the programme and also helps us to learn more about how cancers develop and how they are diagnosed.

When we review your cervical screening history, we will check the letters sent to you inviting you for screening tests, your result letters and any previous medical investigations related to cervical screening.

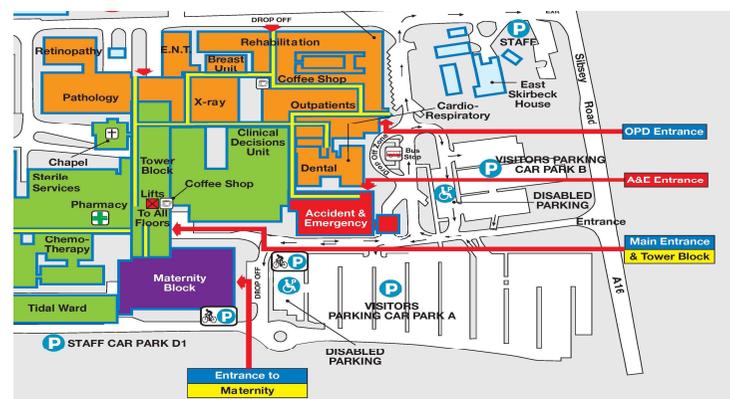
Please fill in the attached form, stating whether you would like to know the result of the review of your previous tests and other relevant medical investigations and return it to the address shown on the form.



Grantham Hospital



Lincoln County Hospital



Pilgrim Hospital

More information

If you have any more questions about your referral or treatment please telephone:

Lincoln County Hospital/Grantham Hospital

Specialist nurses:

Emma Ryland on 01522 573126

[confidential answerphone]

Nurse Colposcopist: Ellen Ewer 01522 573826

Colposcopy secretaries: Lynne Procter 01522 573214/Jacqui Williams 01522 573295

Pilgrim Hospital, Boston

Specialist nurse:

Stephanie Palmer on 01205 446662 [confidential answerphone]

Colposcopy secretary: Heather Ainsworth 01205 445415

We would like to thank **Jo's Trust** for feedback from patients.

Jo's Trust is a registered charity dedicated to women, their families and friends affected by cervical cancer.

Website: www.jostrust.co.uk

For your information: site maps of Grantham, Lincoln and Pilgrim Hospitals are located on the opposite page of this leaflet.

Please Note: Clinics at Lincoln and Pilgrim Hospitals are located in the Maternity Wing. The Clinic at Grantham Hospital is located in the Endoscopy department.

If you wish to know the results of the review, we will contact you when they are available and arrange a convenient time for you to come and discuss the results with your doctor.

Gynaecologists:

Miss Sarah Harper

Miss Narmatha Kangeyan

Mr Oluwole Adeyemi

Frequently asked questions

What does the review involve?

We review all records connected to the letters inviting you to come for screening, cervical screening tests, result letters and any previous medical investigations related to cervical screening. A group of professionals then look again at your previous tests and your medical notes related to cervical screening, to ensure your screening history meets national guidance requirements.

What will the review show?

In most cases, the review will show that the correct procedures have been followed and that you received appropriate care. Occasionally, the review may find that one or more steps in the process have not worked as well as they should and may highlight where we could make improvements. It should be emphasised that even if areas for improvement are identified it does not mean that the screening was undertaken improperly.

What happens if I want to know the results of the review?

When the results are available we will write to you to ask if you would like to come to discuss the findings. You can ring one of the secretaries on the numbers listed within this leaflet to make a convenient appointment.

What if I don't want to know the results of the review now but change my mind later?

We understand this is a difficult time and you may not want to receive the results of the review now. If you decide that you do want to know the results at some point in the future, please contact your hospital doctor, who will discuss the review with you.

What if I don't want to know the results of the review?

It is completely up to you to decide whether or not you want to know the results of the review. It will not make any difference to your care.

Can my family ask for the results if I don't want to know?

No, we cannot give your relatives access to any details of your medical records.

Could my cancer have been found earlier?

In most cases the cancer will have been detected at the earliest possible stage. Although cervical screening prevents a high percentage of cervical cancers [about 75%], it cannot prevent all of them. Some of the reasons for this are:

Screening cannot always identify abnormal cells on a cervical-sample slide because the person may not recognise the abnormal cells. This may happen even if they are very experienced because:

- sometimes the cells look very similar to normal cells.
- there may be very few abnormal cells on the slide.

Colposcopy [a visual examination of the cervix] cannot always identify abnormal areas of the cervix because the abnormal area might not be visible during the examination.

However, the review process aims to highlight any possible areas of weakness so we can make improvements for everyone.

What happens to the information collected for my review?

We collect screening information as part of an ongoing process. Your information [without your name] goes towards improving the systems of the programme and to help discover more about how cancers develop and how they are diagnosed and treated. This is done whether or not you want to know the results of the review.

Why should women bother to go for cervical screening if abnormalities can be missed?

Cervical screening **substantially** reduces the risk of developing cervical cancer. The cervical screening programme is estimated to save 4500 lives a year nationally and regular screening is the best way to detect early changes to the cervix.