



From December 2019 London will have a new cervical screening service

What is Cervical Screening London (CSL)?

The NHS has commissioned Health Services Laboratories (HSL) to provide a comprehensive, single site HPV primary screening service for London. This service will operate within the NHS Cervical Screening Programme.

HSL is a partnership between The Doctors Laboratory (TDL), Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust and University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. It provides clinically-led pathology and diagnostic services to the NHS. HSL is part of the international healthcare group, Sonic Healthcare, which has global experience in the provision of state of the art diagnostic services, including cervical screening.

HSL will deliver this service in partnership with London North West University Hospital NHS Trust (LNWUH) under the new banner of Cervical Screening London (CSL). All future communications about cervical screening will bear this logo.

What will change?

While previous cytology-based screening involved a scientist directly looking at cells taken from the cervix, HPV primary screening uses an analyser to test for the presence of certain types of human papilloma virus (known as high risk or hrHPV) as a first step in the screening process.

These hrHPV subtypes are known to be linked to the development of abnormal changes in the cervix which, in some cases, can lead to cervical cancer. Early identification of women with hrHPV means they can be more closely monitored and treated if any abnormality is detected.

Why change the screening test?

HPV is a very common viral infection in the ano-genital region of men and women who are, or have been, sexually active. In most cases HPV is cleared by the body over time. However, in some women infection can persist, causing abnormal cell changes in the cervix which may turn into cancer.

The national HPV vaccination programme for girls (and, more recently, boys) protects against some of the types of HPV most closely linked to cervical cancer. As these girls begin to enter the NHS Cervical Screening Programme, the amount of HPV-related disease will fall and a more sensitive test can be used to detect the HPV virus.

The HPV test can detect more disease than cytology alone and will improve outcomes for women.

When will it change?

All women across London will be offered a safe HPV primary screening test by the end of December 2019. Some areas of London have already converted to HPV primary screening; others have not.

CSL will initiate this change across London on December 2, 2019 to avoid implementation over the Christmas period.

How will I order a cervical screening test?

You will need to generate an electronic request form via our on-line ordering system tQuest. This will ensure correct patient identification, correct testing and improve efficiency for the whole service.

Information on setting up tQuest at your practice is included with this update. Please respond as soon as possible. You can set this up now in preparation for December.

Do I collect the same sample?

Yes, sample collection is the same as for the previous cytology-based screening test. **However, from December 2, 2019 your samples will be picked up by our TDL Collect couriers** and brought to CSL's central London laboratory. CSL-specific sample collection bags will be provided.



Then what happens?

In the laboratory, the first test performed on the sample will be the HPV test.

If hrHPV is not detected, there is a very low risk that the woman will develop a significant abnormality before her next test. She will be asked to return in 3 or 5 years depending on her age.

If hrHPV is detected, a cytology slide will be prepared from the same sample and examined under a microscope. If there are no abnormal cell changes, the woman will be asked to come back in 12 months for another HPV test. If abnormal cells are detected, the woman will be referred for colposcopy.

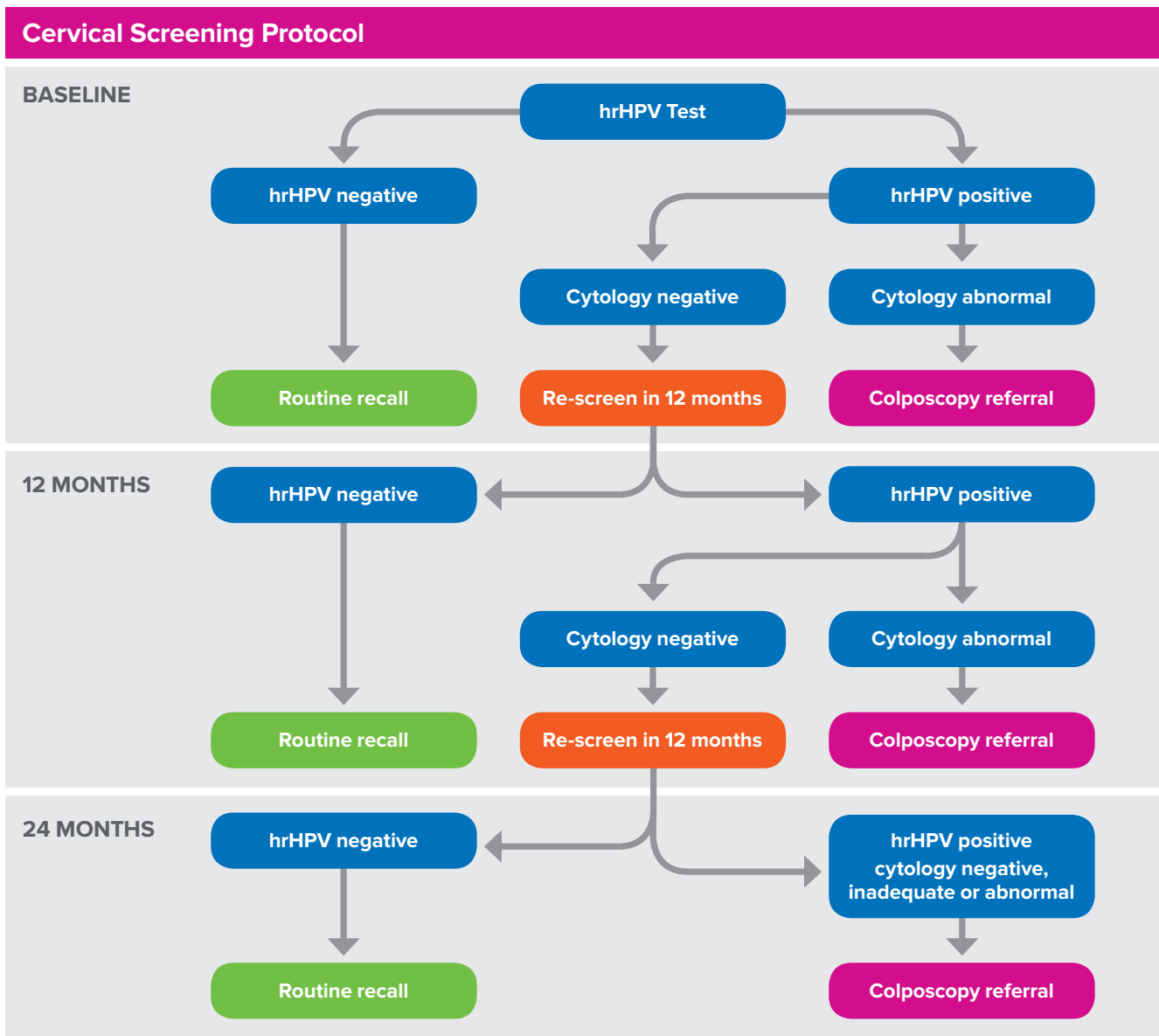
An easy-to-follow flow chart is shown below to help you understand the pathway and discuss it with your patients.

What do I need to do now?

- Keep sending samples to your current screening provider until December 2, 2019
- Watch out for these regular CSL Sample Taker Updates with more information as we get closer to December
- Complete the PHE online training module: <https://portal.e-lfh.org.uk/Component/Details/559150>
- **Please respond to our request to assist you in setting up tQuest electronic ordering as soon as possible**

If you have any questions, please email csl@hslpathology.com

Please visit our website for more information: www.hslpathology.com/csl



Ref: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/773338/Appendix_1_cervical_screening_protocol.pdf

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