



PHE Screening
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Dear Colleagues,

We are writing to acknowledge and thank the staff in all cytology screening laboratories for the considerable time and effort and commitment over the many years working in the programme. We appreciate that this is a difficult time in the programme with the changes associated with the transition to HPV Primary screening. The procurement process has no doubt been a demanding and difficult time.

The future of cervical cancer prevention in the UK is bright and primary HPV screening marks the beginning of a new chapter. HPV Primary screening provides further opportunities for extensions to screening intervals and self-testing and we will look to evaluate these going forwards. The screening programme will continue to build on the foundations that have been set and most importantly work to ensure the standards for the women we serve are maintained.

The quality of cervical screening in this country is world renowned, and it is precisely the commitment of NHS screening laboratories that provides the underpinning of this reputation.

We would also like to acknowledge and thank the staff of the six laboratories that participated in the national pilot of primary HPV screening. This required considerable effort over and above that required for their routine cytology commitment. It has achieved a great deal in terms of demonstrating the superiority of HPV primary screening and its practicability in the real world.

Yours sincerely

Henry Kitchener, Chair ACCS

On behalf of the Advisory Committee Cervical Screening (ACCS)