



17 September 2021

Deputy Catherine Connolly, TD
Catherine.connolly@oireachtas.ie

Our Ref: GM/Communications

PQ43637.21: To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 2575 of 27 July 2021, the status of the audit of cervical smear test results; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

The previous PQ referred to read: “To ask the Minister for Health the status of the audit of cervical smear test results; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Questions.

In his 2018 *Scoping Inquiry into the CervicalCheck Screening Programme*, Dr Gabriel Scally made recommendations on the cervical screening audit process. In order to address these recommendations, the HSE established an Expert Reference Group (ERG) to review the interval cancer management processes of the National Screening Services (NSS). The ERG’s report on CervicalCheck was published in October 2020, and contains the following recommendations:

- To provide access to patient-requested case reviews
- To implement anonymous programmatic reviews for quality assurance, professional education and international benchmarking of standards
- To set out a clear interval cancer rate measurement for benchmarking.

The HSE accepted these recommendations and has set up implementation groups which are working towards establishing the process for new, standardised, patient-led case reviews, and anonymous programmatic reviews. This work is on-going and expected to be finalised in 2022.

CervicalCheck participants diagnosed with an invasive cancer from May 2018 will be eligible for a patient-requested review when the new process is finalised. Anyone diagnosed before that date was offered a review as part of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) process, and will not therefore be eligible for another review.

Screening participants who develop an invasive cervical cancer, and would like a patient-requested review, can find information on initiating this process at:
<https://www2.hse.ie/screening-and-vaccinations/cervical-screening/about-cervicalcheck/your-personal-information.html>

Any CervicalCheck participant who would like to access their personal screening records can do so by submitting a request to our Client Services department at clientservices@screeningservice.ie

Teach Óstaí an Rí, 200 Sráid Parnell, Baile Átha Cliath D01 A3Y8. King’s Inn House, 200 Parnell Street, Dublin 1, D01 A3Y8.
☎ 353 1 865 9300 ✉ info@screeningservice.ie www.screeningservice.ie





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National Screening Service

The NSS continues to encourage all people who are between screening appointments, or waiting for rescheduled appointments, to be aware of, and act upon, any symptoms. We ask that those people contact their GP, who will arrange appropriate follow-up care.

For other queries participants can call the Freephone information line on 1800 45 45 55, email: info@screeningservice.ie or contact their clinic directly.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Fiona Murphy
Chief Executive
National Screening Service

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