

APPENDIX 1

SUMMARY OF THE “RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CERVICAL SCREENING 1997”²

1. Regular screening should commence at age 20 years, for women who have had sexual intercourse. Screening should be offered to all women who have ever had sexual intercourse, including lesbians.
2. The usual interval is 3 years for women with normal smear results. A further smear should be taken in one year if the woman has had no previous smears or if it is five or more years since the previous smear.
3. At age 70 years, women with normal smear results may cease to have cervical smears.
4. Women who have had a hysterectomy for a benign condition, with complete removal of histologically normal cervical epithelium, and who have no history of abnormal smears, do not need to continue to be screened.
5. Women with immunosuppression should have annual smears.
6. The cervical smear will be part of the investigation of women with signs and/or symptoms of cervical cancer. It is not sufficiently sensitive however, for a negative result to override clinical concerns. Such women should be referred for gynaecological assessment irrespective of the smear result.