

SCOTLAND MEDICAL CENTRE  
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Dear Jenny Bloggs,

**Your cervical screening test – stop cervical cancer before it starts.**

You are now due to have your cervical screening (smear) test. Cervical screening saves lives and is the best way to prevent cervical cancer from developing. **Please call the number above to arrange an appointment.**

If you're deciding whether to come or not, extra information on the importance of the test can be found in the enclosed leaflet. There you'll also find out what happens at the appointment and answers to some commonly asked questions.

**What is a cervical screening test?**

- \* The test takes a small sample of cells from the cervix (neck of the womb).
- \* The sample is tested for human papillomavirus (HPV), which is the main cause of cervical cancer.
- \* HPV is a very common infection which is usually harmless and is cleared by the body itself. However, certain types of HPV can cause cell changes in the cervix which, if left untreated, could lead to cervical cancer.
- \* If HPV is found, your sample will also be looked at for cell changes.

**See this? We want to see you**

If you have unusual discharge, or bleeding after sex, between periods or after the menopause, contact your GP practice. These are not usually caused by cancer but it's important to have them checked.

**To find out more**

Visit [www.nhsinform.scot/cervicalscreening](http://www.nhsinform.scot/cervicalscreening) (videos are also available), call NHS inform on 0800 22 44 88 or use webchat [www.nhsinform.scot/webchat](http://www.nhsinform.scot/webchat)

Please contact the Surgery and make an appointment with the Practice Nurse at your earliest convenience. The best time to have a smear is in the middle of your regular cycle.