

## Cervical cancer overview

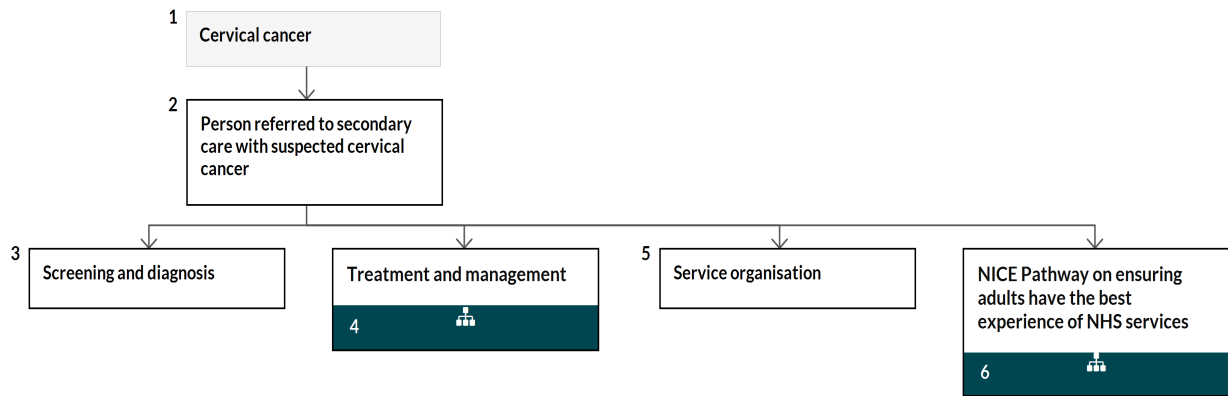
NICE Pathways bring together everything NICE says on a topic in an interactive flowchart. NICE Pathways are interactive and designed to be used online.

They are updated regularly as new NICE guidance is published. To view the latest version of this NICE Pathway see:

<http://pathways.nice.org.uk/pathways/cervical-cancer>

NICE Pathway last updated: 27 January 2021

This document contains a single flowchart and uses numbering to link the boxes to the associated recommendations.



## 1 Cervical cancer

No additional information

## 2 Person referred to secondary care with suspected cervical cancer

See [gynaecological cancers in the NICE Pathway on suspected cancer recognition and referral](#).

## 3 Screening and diagnosis

### Screening

The [UK National Screening Committee](#) is responsible for making recommendations for screening across all clinical areas, including cancer. Cancer screening programme management in England comes under the remit of the [NHS Cancer Screening Programmes](#) rather than the UK National Screening Committee.

NICE has published a [clinical knowledge summary on cervical screening](#). This practical resource is for primary care professionals (it is not formal NICE guidance).

### Guidance on the use of liquid-based cytology for cervical screening

These recommendations are from [NICE technology appraisal guidance on the use of liquid-based cytology for cervical screening](#).

It is recommended that liquid-based cytology (LBC) is used as the primary means of processing samples in the cervical screening programme in England and Wales.

There is currently insufficient evidence to recommend one LBC product over another. The NHS Cervical Screening Programme and Cervical Screening Wales may wish to consider evaluating further the different products as the method is introduced.

NICE has written [information for the public on cervical screening](#).

Note: Liquid-based cytology is the method used by the NHS Cervical Screening Programme.

## Diagnosis

### **Adjunctive colposcopy technologies for assessing suspected cervical abnormalities: the DYSIS colposcope with DYSISmap and the ZedScan I**

These recommendations are from [NICE diagnostics guidance on adjunctive colposcopy technologies for assessing suspected cervical abnormalities: the DYSIS colposcope with DYSISmap and the ZedScan I](#).

The Dynamic Spectral Imaging System (DYSIS) colposcope with DYSISmap shows promise and is recommended for assessing suspected cervical abnormalities in people having colposcopy. Centres using the technology should audit their outcomes (see [section 5.16 of NICE diagnostics guidance 32](#)).

Further research is recommended on the effects of using the DYSIS colposcope with DYSISmap on clinical and patient outcomes in a human papilloma virus primary screening setting, and on patient experience (see [sections 6.1 to 6.3 of NICE diagnostics guidance 32](#)).

The ZedScan I shows promise in assessing suspected cervical abnormalities, but there is currently not enough evidence to recommend its routine adoption. Further research on the effects of using the technology on clinical and patient outcomes is recommended (see [sections 6.1 to 6.3 of NICE diagnostics guidance 32](#)). Colposcopy services that implemented the ZedScan I before this guidance was published are encouraged to take part in studies that address these research recommendations.

For further information, see [the NICE Pathways on suspected cancer recognition and referral and metastatic malignant disease of unknown primary origin](#).

## 4 Treatment and management

[See Cervical cancer / Treatment and management of cervical cancer](#)

## 5 Service organisation

Cancer service guidelines have been published by the Department of Health on [improving outcomes in gynaecological cancers](#), and by NICE on [improving supportive and palliative care for adults with cancer](#).

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**6 NICE Pathway on ensuring adults have the best experience of NHS services**

[See Patient experience in adult NHS services](#)

## Sources

Improving supportive and palliative care for adults with cancer (2004) NICE guideline CSG4

Guidance on the use of liquid-based cytology for cervical screening (2003) NICE technology appraisal guidance 69

Adjunctive colposcopy technologies for assessing suspected cervical abnormalities: the DYSIS colposcope with DYSISmap and the ZedScan I (2018) NICE diagnostics guidance 32

## Your responsibility

### Guidelines

The recommendations in this guideline represent the view of NICE, arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. When exercising their judgement, professionals and practitioners are expected to take this guideline fully into account, alongside the individual needs, preferences and values of their patients or the people using their service. It is not mandatory to apply the recommendations, and the guideline does not override the responsibility to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual, in consultation with them and their families and carers or guardian.

Local commissioners and providers of healthcare have a responsibility to enable the guideline to be applied when individual professionals and people using services wish to use it. They should do so in the context of local and national priorities for funding and developing services, and in light of their duties to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity and to reduce health inequalities. Nothing in this guideline should be interpreted in a way that would be inconsistent with complying with those duties.

Commissioners and providers have a responsibility to promote an environmentally sustainable health and care system and should assess and reduce the environmental impact of implementing NICE recommendations wherever possible.

## Technology appraisals

The recommendations in this interactive flowchart represent the view of NICE, arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. When exercising their judgement, health professionals are expected to take these recommendations fully into account, alongside the individual needs, preferences and values of their patients. The application of the recommendations in this interactive flowchart is at the discretion of health professionals and their individual patients and do not override the responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or their carer or guardian.

Commissioners and/or providers have a responsibility to provide the funding required to enable the recommendations to be applied when individual health professionals and their patients wish to use it, in accordance with the NHS Constitution. They should do so in light of their duties to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity and to reduce health inequalities.

Commissioners and providers have a responsibility to promote an environmentally sustainable health and care system and should assess and reduce the environmental impact of implementing NICE recommendations wherever possible.

## Medical technologies guidance, diagnostics guidance and interventional procedures guidance

The recommendations in this interactive flowchart represent the view of NICE, arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. When exercising their judgement, healthcare professionals are expected to take these recommendations fully into account. However, the interactive flowchart does not override the individual responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer.

Commissioners and/or providers have a responsibility to implement the recommendations, in their local context, in light of their duties to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations. Nothing in this interactive flowchart should be interpreted in a way that would be inconsistent with compliance with those duties.

Commissioners and providers have a responsibility to promote an environmentally sustainable health and care system and should assess and reduce the environmental impact of implementing NICE recommendations wherever possible.