

To:  
NHSEI Heads of Public Health Commissioning  
NHSEI Regional Directors of Primary Care and Public  
Health Commissioning  
NHSEI Regional Directors of Commissioning  
NHSEI Directors of Commissioning Finance  
NHSEI Regional PH Communications Representatives

NHS England and NHS Improvement  
Skipton House  
80 London Road  
London  
SE1 6LH

**October 2021**

Dear colleague,

### **Important update about the new NHS Cervical Screening Management System**

We are writing to update you about the new NHS Cervical Screening Management System which will replace the current call/recall IT system for the NHS Cervical Screening Programme.

NHS Digital is designing and developing a safe and stable new system and we are working at pace to support them. In the interest of clinical safety, which is a priority throughout this process, it has been agreed that further time is needed to develop and test the new system to ensure that it can be deployed safely. It has therefore been agreed to postpone the launch of the new system from 30 October 2021. NHS Digital is working on a revised timing plan, which will be communicated as soon as it has been confirmed.

We hope that this will give providers of NHS Cervical Screening Programme services additional time to prepare for the transition to the new system. NHS Digital will be writing directly to staff working in NHS Cervical Screening Programme services to inform them about this delay and to notify them of what actions they should continue to take ahead of the launch in 2022.

All organisations are expected to continue to complete a number of IT pre-requisites to prepare for the new system and we have included a recap of these requirements in this letter below. We would like to thank all organisations who have completed the technical requirements so far. Information about the training requirements will be made available in due course.

### **What steps do providers of NHS Cervical Screening Programme services need take to support us with these important changes?**

We are seeking your support to ensure that all providers of NHS Cervical Screening Programme services have actioned the following steps by 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021:

#### **1. Update devices with the latest software**

To access the new NHS Cervical Screening Management System, additional software will need to be installed on your provider's devices. Almost 90% of NHS organisations who provide NHS Cervical Screening Programme services have already downloaded and started testing NHS Credential Management.

[Your providers IT department should already be aware of these requirements](#) however we advise that they check with their IT lead to ensure that the deployment will be completed as soon as possible. For more information please follow the [guidance about the IT requirements](#).

## 2. Arrange for NHS smartcards to be set up and updated

Access to the new system will be via an NHS smartcard only and we are very grateful to those providers who have already arranged access for staff using their smartcards. NHS smartcards will replace access via an Open Exeter username and password. All staff who need access to the NHS Cervical Screening Management System will need to have an NHS smartcard with the correct role, workgroup profile and permissions in place before they can use the new system. Staff who do not currently have an NHS smartcard set up, ready to use with the new system should contact their local registration authority to apply for one as soon as possible. So far more than 21,000 members of the workforce have updated their smartcards.

Please use the [guidance to ensure NHS smartcards have been updated](#) accordingly by the deadline.

## 3. Install NHS smartcard readers

All organisations will need to ensure that smartcard users have access to an NHS smartcard reader to use with the new NHS Cervical Screening Management System.

For more information please follow the [guidance about the IT requirements](#).

### Who can I contact for more information about these important changes?

To find out more about the new NHS Cervical Screening Management System please visit [www.digital.nhs.uk/cervical-screening](http://www.digital.nhs.uk/cervical-screening).

If you have any specific questions about the new system, please contact NHS Digital directly by email: [screening.implementation@nhs.net](mailto:screening.implementation@nhs.net).

We would like to thank you for your continued support with these important changes. We will write to you again to confirm the revised date of implementation soon.

Yours sincerely,



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