



Cervical Screening Management System (CSMS) and use of tQuest

Last time we wrote to you, CSMS was still in development. The new system went live at the end of June much to the delight of professionals across the healthcare community. Despite the initial euphoria, CSL took an unexpected hit as sample takers moved away from using tQuest to the HMR101 form available on CSMS. **The use of HMR101 forms significantly increases the risk of transcription errors and potentially, the need to repeat the sample.**

This had an immediate impact on the laboratory and led to an increase of delays caused by manually booking in request forms, which contributed to increased turnaround times.

CSL responded quickly by writing to users of our cervical cytology service, reminding them that tQuest remains the method of choice for requesting cervical screening tests. CSL would like to thank all users for their prompt return to tQuest (https://www.hslpathology.com/media/vnreffgc/tap5520_csl_urgent_update_tquest_v1.pdf).

Please submit one request from tquest (or a HMR101 form when necessary) – two forms are not required. Ensure your sample taker unique loncstd pin is clearly documented on the request form.

Sad losses in 2024

In February 2024, the cervical screening community were informed of the sad passing of our NHSE Commissioner, Maggie Luck, after a brief illness. Maggie was well known in London and indeed nationally for her work on cervical screening. She was knowledgeable, passionate, pragmatic, and always available for advice. Maggie will be missed by all of us who worked closely with her to improve the cervical screening service across London.

Another big loss for cervical screening was the loss of Jo's Trust. The unexpected closure of the charity in May 2024 has left a void for patients and professionals who relied on the charity's guidance and support. It is only appropriate to thank the Trust for their contribution to cervical screening over the last two decades.

Advance notice from NHSE/CSL to all sample takers

From 1st January 2025, all NHS cervical screening samples sent for processing to Cervical Screening London (CSL) laboratory must include the sample takers' London Cervical Sample Taker Database (LonCSTD) Personal Identification Number (PIN).

In line with NHS Cervical Screening Programme guidance for the acceptance of cervical screening samples in laboratories, all NHS Cervical Screening sample takers, including trainees in London must:

- Be correctly registered on the London Cervical Sample Taker Database (LonCSTD), held and managed by CSL laboratory.
- Use their unique sample taker LonCSTD Personal Identification Number (PIN) for all cervical samples taken in London.

A cervical screening test is a consultation and an intimate clinical examination, and the sample taker must have the required level of knowledge and understanding of the NHS Cervical Screening Programme, and clinical skill, to safeguard the individual.

As of 1st January 2025, CSL will be implementing Section 6.12 of the NHS Cervical Screening Programme guidance for the acceptance of cervical screening samples in laboratories guidance. All samples submitted without a valid sample taker identification code will be delayed and reported as 'result unavailable' if not abnormal, as detailed below.

6.12 Personal Identification number (PIN) absent or invalid

- The sample taker's PIN should be present and valid as this confirms that the sample taker is appropriately trained and competent in cervical sample taking.

CSL/NHSE London Cervical Screening PH commissioning

- The absence of a valid PIN on the sample request requires investigation before it can be reported. Carry out investigation swiftly so as not to adversely affect the time the person waits for their result.
- If the PIN information can be confirmed, the sample can be reported.
- Sample takers must not use a PIN belonging to someone else.
- Trainee sample takers must use a unique PIN that identifies them as a trainee.

If the sample taker PIN is invalid or cannot be provided, the sample should be hrHPV tested and reported as: HPV inadequate (HPV-U) if the HPV test is negative.

If the hrHPV test is positive, then cytology should be examined and reported as 'cytology inadequate' unless abnormal cells are identified.

If enquiries related to an absent or invalid PIN raise concerns that the sample taker may not be trained or does not meet the minimum requirements to be a sample taker, seek advice from the Screening QA Service in line with national screening incident guidance.

Mislabelled samples – Let's get it right first time

A recent audit conducted by CSL has shown that 43% of incidents raised by the laboratory are due to mislabelling. Please remind your sample takers to do a final check to ensure samples are correctly labelled. Using tQuest request forms can reduce labelling errors; however, it is the sample taker's responsibility to ensure the correct information is on the form and vial before sending it to the laboratory. Further guidance is available in the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cervical-screening-accepting-samples-in-laboratories/guidance-for-acceptance-of-cervical-screening-samples-in-laboratories-and-pathways-roles-and-responsibilities>

Ordering supplies from CSL has changed – are you aware?

In our ongoing commitment to enhance service quality, we are implementing a more efficient logistics solution. Instead of the standard monthly supply, you will now have the flexibility to order consumables precisely as needed using our online order form.

Once you submit your order, confirmation will be sent and our warehouse team will promptly pick, pack and deliver the items within five working days. For any expired stock, please contact us for a return label.

You will no longer automatically receive HPV supplies from Monday 1st July 2024 and the above process will need to be followed.

ONLINE ORDER FORM

https://pathologyforms.formstack.com/workflows/hpv_surgery_supplies

HELPDESK CONTACT

Monday to Friday (9:00am to 5:30pm)

ls.helpdesk@hslpathology.com

020 7307 9440

RESULTS AND PATIENT QUERIES

020 7307 7373

Sample taker responsibility – out of date vials

Please ensure the sample vial is in date and has at least 14 days left before expiry (the time period left must be at least equivalent to the average waiting time for results).

Website and improved communication

<https://hslpathology.com/csl>

CSL hope you find the information on our website useful and in date. As always, we are committed to continuous improvement, including our communications and website. If you have any suggestions that would help us improve our communications or notice any inaccuracies, please do not hesitate to contact us on hsl.csl.queries@nhs.net.

Cervical Screening London, The Halo Building, 1 Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9AX
T: 020 7460 4851 E: hsl.csl.queries@nhs.net W: www.hslpathology.com/csl