

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

General practice indicator for the NICE menu

Indicator area: Cervical screening

Indicator: NM154

Indicator to be replaced: CS002

Date: August 2017

Introduction

The NHS Cervical Screening Programme (NHSCSP) in England invites eligible women for a cervical screening test. Cervical screening in England is offered at different intervals depending upon a woman's age:

- Women aged 25-49 years are invited every 3 years
- Women aged 50-64 are invited every 5 years

There is currently an indicator in the 2016/17 QOF (CS002) for cervical screening:

The percentage of women aged 25 or over and who have not attained the age of 65 whose notes record that a cervical screening test has been performed in the preceding 5 years.

CS002 is not a NICE menu indicator. The age ranges and frequency of screening outlined in the current QOF indicator CS002 are not aligned with NHSCSP which is based on guidance from the National Screening Committee for England.

Indicator:

NM154: The proportion of women eligible for screening and aged 25 – 49 years at end of period reported whose notes record that an adequate cervical screening test has been performed in the previous 3.5 years.

Source guidance and recommendations

Public Health England (2016) [Colposcopy and programme management guidelines for the NHS cervical screening programme](#)

Between the ages of 24 and a half to 49, women should be offered cervical screening every three years.

Public Health England (2017) [Key Performance Indicators for the NHS Screening programmes definitions document for 2017/18](#)

Rationale

A cervical screening test is a way of detecting abnormal cells on the cervix. Detecting and removing abnormal cervical cells can prevent cervical cancer. Cervical screening aims to reduce the number of women who develop cervical cancer and the number of women who die from it. In 2014 there were approximately 3,200 new cases in the UK (Cancer Research UK, 2017). Cervical cancer often has no symptoms in its early stages and the exact cause of cervical cancer is not known

Reporting and verification

See indicator wording for requirement criteria. Eligible women are those not ceased from recall due to clinical reasons i.e. absence of cervix.

References

Public Health England (2016) [Colposcopy and programme management guidelines for the NHS cervical screening programme](#)