NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

# NICE indicator guidance

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## Indicator NM154

The proportion of patients eligible for cervical screening and aged 25 to 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.

## Indicator type

General practice indicator suitable for use in the Quality and Outcomes Framework.

## 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 people who develop cervical cancer and the number who die from it. Cervical cancer often has no symptoms in its early stages. In 2015 to 2017 there were approximately 3200 new cases in the UK every year ([Cancer Research 2017](https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/health-professional/cancer-statistics/statistics-by-cancer-type/cervical-cancer#heading-Zero)), and around 24% of cervical cancer cases are detected by screening ([National Cancer Intelligence Network 2015](http://www.ncin.org.uk/publications/routes_to_diagnosis)). Target uptake is 80% national coverage. The first invitation for cervical screening is sent when an individual reaches 24.5 years of age. People are recalled every 3 years until they turn 50 when the recall interval changes to every 5 years. This indicator aims to improve uptake of cervical screening and ensure it is performed at the appropriate intervals according to a person’s age.

## Source guidance

[NHS population screening: reporting data definitions](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-population-screening-reporting-data-definitions). [Public Health England](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-population-screening-reporting-data-definitions) (2020)

[Cervical screening standards valid for data collected from 1 April 2018](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cervical-screening-programme-standards/cervical-screening-programme-standards-valid-for-data-collected-from-1-april-2018#csp-s01-coverage-under-50-years). [Public Health England](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cervical-screening-programme-standards/cervical-screening-programme-standards-valid-for-data-collected-from-1-april-2018#csp-s01-coverage-under-50-years) (2019)

## Specification

Numerator: The number of patients in the denominator whose notes record that an adequate cervical screening test has been performed in the preceding 3.5 years.

Denominator: The number of patients eligible for cervical screening aged 25 to 49 years.

Calculation: (Numerator/denominator)\*100

Exclusions: Patients without a cervix. Patients who have not responded to three invitations to screening.

Minimum population: The indicator would be appropriate to assess performance at individual general practice level.

## Further information

This is NICE indicator guidance, which is part of the [NICE menu of indicators](https://www.nice.org.uk/Standards-and-Indicators/index). This document does not represent formal NICE guidance.