MEMORANDUM

To: All Sample Takers
From: Cervical Screening Wales
Date: 11th September 2018
Re: HPV Primary Screening: including an URGENT UPDATE regarding expired sample vials

Dear Colleague

With the full rollout of HPV primary screening happening on the 17th September 2018, Wales will be the first home nation within the UK to introduce HPV primary screening to women aged 25 – 64 years. We wanted to thank you all for the training you have attended and undertaken in preparation for this event and also to check that you have sufficient supplies.

The team also wanted to highlight a number of issues we have come across in recent weeks which would be of benefit for sample takers to be aware of:

- There have been a number of practices reporting out of date vials, therefore please ensure your stock is within date. If you have out of date vials please dispose of these in your clinical waste and reorder. Please note that the manufacturers display year:month:day on the vials.

- When placing the patient label on the vial please ensure this does not obscure the expiry date on the vial as the laboratory needs to check this on all samples
Similarly, the laboratory LBC processor determines whether the fluid level in the vial is satisfactory. Fluid level should be within the opaque band. Could we take this opportunity to remind sample takers to **ensure all specimens reach the lab with sufficient fluid in them**

If the sample is accidentally spilt record this on the HMR form as the lab may be able to process this sample. The sample taker will have to inform the woman that the sample may need repeating **no sooner than 12 weeks** after the last test.