From April 1st 2017, Cervical Screening Wales will be piloting High Risk Human Papillomavirus (HR HPV) as a primary screening test in some areas of Wales.

**What is HPV Primary Screening?**
This is when a test for HR HPV is the first test done on the sample sent in for cervical screening. If HR HPV is not detected, then the sample is not looked at any further for cell changes. If HR HPV is detected, the sample is checked for abnormalities:
- If any abnormality is found, the woman is referred to colposcopy
- If no abnormality is found, the test is repeated after 12 months

**Why introduce HPV Primary Screening?**
Testing for HR HPV has been approved by the National Screening Committee as the preferred primary test for cervical screening, as it is more sensitive than cytology. However, it is only a test for the presence of a virus, not of disease. So cytology is needed to triage women who have HR HPV, to see whether there are any abnormal cells or not.

If no HR HPV is found in a sample, then the chance of any significant abnormality is extremely low, and so no further testing needs to be performed on that sample.

**Where will this be happening?**
In participating GP surgeries throughout Wales. The smear takers in those surgeries will receive training from CSW, as will the local colposcopy clinics. Smears taken in other settings (e.g. Sexual health services, colposcopy clinics) will not be HPV primary screened at this time.

**How will the women affected be informed?**
From February 2017, the screening invitation letters to women in the participating practices will have an additional short leaflet to advise them of the HPV testing pilot. This leaflet is available to view [here](#). Otherwise there is little change, as the sample taken is exactly the same as currently.

**What if one of my patients wants to be tested for HPV?**
If you are one of the practices in the pilot, this will happen automatically when a woman has her screening test taken in the practice. If you are not one of these practices, then women will only be tested for HPV if their sample is eligible under CSW Test of Cure or Triage criteria.

**Where can I get further information about HPV Primary Screening?**
A ‘Key Facts’ leaflet has been produced which is available on the Screening Professionals website [here](#) or you can contact your Regional Lead Nurse Specialist or Nurse Coordinator.

**PLASTIC ON HPV VIALS**
Magden Park laboratory have advised us that they are receiving vials with some plastic still left on. This caused problems as the processor works overnight and the plastic stops it from removing the vial lid, so delaying results. Please could you make sure you have removed the plastic from all vials before sending them in.