**To All Practices in Surrey and Sussex**

24th August 2021

Dear Colleagues

**NHS Cervical Screening Programme: National Ceasing Audit**

I am writing to advise all practices that over the next month or so you should receive a request from NHS England to review all patients for whom a request has been received to cease invitations to have cervical screening. The average practice has fewer than ten patients to audit. These patients are those recorded on the national cervical screening call and recall system since 1st April 2010 as either:

* having no cervix (and therefore no longer eligible for cervical screening). The commonest reason for this is a total abdominal hysterectomy.
* No record of a ceasing notification letter being sent to the patient when they were originally ceased.

Practices will be asked to review the patients’ notes and respond in one of three ways:

* Ceased Correctly
* Ceased Incorrectly
* Unknown (no evidence from the patient’s record)

The latter two cohorts of patients will be re-instated into the cervical screening call/recall system.

There is no need to contact the patient directly.

If no response to this audit is received, all listed patients will be reinstated onto the call/recall system.

There will be a one-off fee payable to practices for undertaking this work, although I do not yet have details of this.

I also enclose the FAQs that accompany this audit.

This audit is occurring in part because of a significant incident identified in Scotland where some patients were incorrectly removed from the call/recall system. Colleagues can anticipate receiving this ceasing audit request during August or September, with practices with larger numbers of patients being contacted first.

I hope this background is helpful.

With best wishes



Dr Julius Parker

Chief Executive