

SMEAR CLINIC

COLPOSCOPY DEPARTMENT
GYNAE. OUTPATIENTS

0151 702 4198

WHY HAVE I BEEN REFERRED TO THIS CLINIC?

You have been referred to this clinic by your G.P because your last smear test was unsatisfactory. This means that it has not been possible to get a reliable result from your smear test **THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THERE IS ANYTHING WRONG WITH YOUR CERVIX.** An "unsatisfactory" or "inadequate" smear is not the same as an abnormal smear.

PLEASE NOTE

Although you will be booking in at the Colposcopy clinic reception you will not have a colposcopic examination . The only reason you are attending is for a repeat smear test. This will be done by one of our experienced colposcopy nurses.

IS IT COMMON FOR A SMEAR TO BE INADEQUATE?

It is not unusual - about one in 15 smears are reported as being inadequate. The most common reasons for this are:

- Your G.P or practice nurse might not have been able to see the cervix in order to get a reliable smear.
- There may not have been enough cells in the sample for the laboratory to give an opinion. This is quite common, particularly in women who have stopped having periods as the cervix produces less cells as women get older.
- There may not have been enough well preserved cells. For example, blood on the smear slide, or cells that have been too thickly spread will make it difficult for the laboratory to give an opinion.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT THE CLINIC?

The nurse will help you to position yourself on a special type of couch which has supports to rest your legs on. This couch makes it easier for the examination to be done. Once you are comfortable the nurse will take a smear from you. We use a special preparation to preserve the sample and this makes sure that all the cells that are taken can be analysed in the laboratory.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN AFTER I'VE HAD THE SMEAR TEST?

Because you have been referred to us your results will be sent back to our clinic. If they are normal you will be referred back to your G.P. If the result shows that there are some changes in the cervical cells then you will need to attend one of our colposcopy clinics for further investigation.

PLEASE REMEMBER The cervical smear test is not a test to detect cancer. It is designed to detect changes in the cervix (neck of the womb)

at a very early stage so that appropriate treatment can be given to prevent cancer from developing.

YOUR APPOINTMENT

If your period is due on your appointment day please telephone the department to let us know as we will need to offer you an alternative appointment.

If, for any other reason, you are unable to attend for your appointment please telephone the department. Waiting times for people to be seen in the Smear Clinic are made even longer by people who fail to attend. If you cancel your appointment then this slot may be given to somebody else. The number to phone is:

0151 702 4198

ATTENDING THE CLINIC WITH CHILDREN.

We recommend that you try to arrange for someone to care for your children whilst you attend the clinic. However we realise that this is not always possible. If you need to bring your children with you, please remember to supervise them at all times.

If you have any further questions which you wish to ask before you attend for your clinic visit, then please ring the clinic or the nurse colposcopists on 0151 702 4266.

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Visit our Web site at www.lwh.org.uk.