

### Further Information

If you have any questions do not hesitate to phone the colposcopy clinic or your GP. They will be happy to help you.

**Colposcopy Clinic help line is manned  
Monday to Friday 9:00am to 4:30pm  
Telephone number: 01270 612172**

If you prefer to be seen at a different Colposcopy Clinic, see your GP for alternative venues. It is advisable to phone and cancel your original appointment so that your place can be re-allocated.

Further information about colposcopy and the cervical screening programme can be found on the web.

[www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk](http://www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk)

## Referral after Three Inadequate Cervical Smears

### Important information for patients



This leaflet is available in audio, Braille, large print and other languages. To request a copy, please telephone 01270 612172.



You have been asked to come for a colposcopy examination.

### **Why do I need a further examination?**

You have been asked to come for a further examination because you have had a series of cervical screening tests (smear tests), which have been called inadequate.

This is not unusual - about two per cent of smears are classed as inadequate, which usually means there were not enough cells collected to rule out any abnormality at the neck of your womb (your cervix).

When you have had a series of smears reported as inadequate it is important to have your cervix checked more closely to rule out an abnormality.

### **It is highly unlikely that an abnormal area would be found**

The examination you will have is called colposcopy. It is simple, quick and painless and allows the doctor or nurse practitioner to view your cervix more easily.

### **Is there anything I can do before the examination?**

You are welcome to arrange for a relative or friend to come with you to the colposcopy clinic. If you think you may be on your period at the time of your appointment please ring the clinic to check if you need to make a new appointment.

The actual examination only takes about 15 minutes, but allow at least one hour for the whole visit.

Some women have a slight discharge after the examination. You may want to bring a sanitary towel, just in case.

### **What happens before the examination?**

Firstly you will be asked some questions relating to your periods, the type of contraception you use, any operations or illnesses you have had in the past. You will need to remove all your lower garments (though a full skirt need not be removed).

Colposcopy can be done safely during pregnancy and will not affect delivery of your baby, nor will it affect your ability to become pregnant in the future.

### **What exactly happens during the colposcopy examination?**

The colposcopy nurse will help you to position yourself on a special couch. The couch has padded supports on which you rest your legs.

When you are lying comfortably the doctor or nurse practitioner will gently insert a speculum into your vagina, just as when you had your smear taken. Your cervix will be looked at using a colposcope. This is a specially adapted type of microscope, consisting of a large magnifying glass with a light source attached. This is for external viewing purposes only, and will not be inserted into your vagina.

### **What happens after the examination?**

After you have dressed, the doctor or nurse practitioner will discuss the findings of the examination with you. You will then be discharged from the clinic and a letter will be posted to you advising you of your results.