

National Screening Service (NSS) update – February 2023

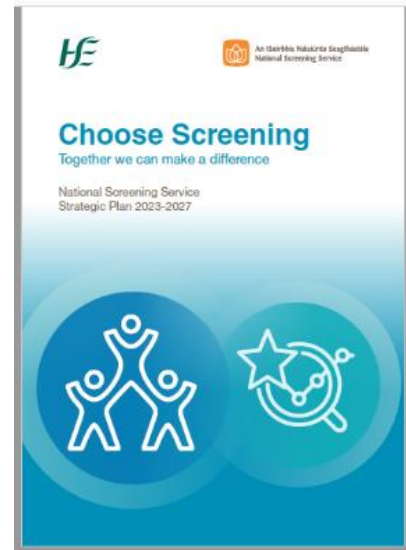
Choose Screening

We're excited to let you know that we're launching our strategic plan in the coming weeks.

Choose Screening: Together we can make a difference, is the culmination of a year's work, and sets out our strategy for the next five years. This is a pivotal document that focuses on the breadth of services that we deliver as part of Ireland's national healthcare system.

"It is an important opportunity for us to express the identity and purpose of our organisation, and set out our direction of travel," says head of Strategy, Business and Projects Grace Turner, who led the strategy development process.

In producing the 30-page strategy document, Grace's team worked through an extensive development process in partnership with key stakeholders, including programme participants. The strategy is designed to respond to current and future health policy, and to national and international developments in screening and population health. Our overall objective is to secure an accessible, compassionate and participant-centred service that delivers positive experiences, and equitable, high-quality care. We will be in touch with more details about the launch, and a link to the strategy nearer the time.



Stephen Donnelly
@DonnellyStephen

Great on #EliminateCervicalCancer week to visit and see the new #cervicalcheck laboratory @CoombeHospital today and talk to the team.



Minister Donnelly visits National Cervical Screening Laboratory

Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly TD marked Cervical Cancer Prevention Week with a visit to the National Cervical Screening Laboratory (NCSL) at the Coombe Hospital on 27 January.

The laboratory, which processes samples for CervicalCheck, is unique in that it houses all of the cervical screening test processes under one roof.

Images shared online by Minister Donnelly, *left*, show him being guided through the laboratory by NCSL Lead Pathologist Dr Aoife Doyle, NCSL Interim Director Dr Cillian De Gascun, and CervicalCheck Clinical Director Prof Nóirín Russell.

You can also take a glimpse inside the new

laboratory in our recent interview with Aoife and Cillian, [here](#).

HPV Awareness Day

To mark HPV Awareness Day on Saturday March 4, we will be sharing messaging via www.facebook.com/cervicalcheck, that answers some of the most common questions we are asked about HPV and its causal link to cervical cancer.

Ahead of the day, we'll also publish a blog on HPV in relation to cervical cancer on our [website](#). Our

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experts, including CervicalCheck Clinical Lead, Prof Nóirín Russell, and virologist Dr Cillian De Gascun, Interim Director of the National Cervical Screening Laboratory, have also contributed to a piece set to run in the *Irish Examiner* on Saturday about HPV. We'd be grateful if you would like and share these resources widely with your own audiences.

Personal Cervical Screening Review Process – update

The Dáil recently passed the Patient Safety Bill 2019, which complements our ongoing work to implement a new, personal cervical screening review process for women who have participated in CervicalCheck, and subsequently received a cervical cancer diagnosis. Screening review processes are already in place for BreastCheck and BowelScreen participants who develop an interval cancer. We are taking time to digest the Bill's contents to ensure our existing and planned review processes are fully aligned with the upcoming legislation. To read more about our new review process see [here](#).

BowelScreen announces exciting research

BowelScreen Clinical Director Prof Pádraic Mac Mathúna has announced that the programme is a co-investigator in an EU Horizon grant Micro-AI-ome project. The research will look at the possibility of using AI microbiome data in screening for colorectal cancer. It will involve 1,500 FIT-positive BowelScreen participants who are undergoing a colonoscopy at the Mater and St Vincent's hospitals in Dublin, as well as the Mercy University Hospital in Cork. All patient data will be anonymised, and their samples will be analysed at University College Cork's Alimentary Pharmabiotic Centre.

NSS reports on Scally and MacCraith recommendations

THE NSS has published a report on the implementation of the reports by Dr Gabriel Scally into CervicalCheck titled *Implementation of Dr Scally Reports: A Review by the National Screening Service*. It can be viewed in the Publications section of screeningservice.ie, or by clicking [here](#).

We have also published a report titled *Implementation of the Prof MacCraith Report: Review by the National Screening Service*, which outlines the progress made by the HSE, National Screening Service and CervicalCheck in addressing recommendations from the MacCraith Report that weren't covered in the Scally-related report mentioned above. You can view the report [here](#).

In other news this month...

- Read about our development of a [framework to improve equity](#) in our programmes.
- Dr Nick Clarke of Dublin City University's School of Psychology describes his study into factors that inhibit people's decisions about taking part in bowel screening [here](#).
- Answer the [call for new members](#) for our Patient and Public Partnership network.
- Graham Clifford, co-founder of Translate Ireland, explains [how we address language and cultural barriers](#) with new screening information tools for Ireland's diverse communities.
- Read our update on the ongoing initiative to [eliminate cervical cancer](#) in Ireland.
- Dr Alan Smith, Specialist in Public Health Medicine, offers an Irish perspective on the recent European Commission Council Recommendation on strengthening prevention through early detection: A new EU approach on cancer screening, [here](#).

We value your feedback on our work; please contact us with any questions or suggestions at communications@screeningservice.ie

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