

## The Top 4 Reasons for Cervical Smear Samples

### Being Rejected.

- **Early Repeats**

- ✓ Always check Open Exeter if you are unsure of a next test due date.
- ✓ If you are unsure if you should take a sample, call the lab to check on 0161 276 5111.
- ✓ Samples taken more than **3 calendar months** (previously 6 months) before an individual's test due date should be considered out of programme if they are:
  - A routine recall.
  - An early repeat test in 12 months following a HPV positive/cytology negative test.
  - A follow up test after colposcopy or treatment.

- **Expiry Date of Vial**

- ✓ Put a sign on the wall indicating the expiry date of the vials.
- ✓ Include vials when doing other stock takes – for example, when checking the expiry dates of vaccines.
- ✓ Ensure stock rotation on receipt of deliveries.
- ✓ Check every clinical room regularly for expired vials – especially ones that aren't used as often.
- ✓ Ensure you check the expiry date **before** taking the sample, as you would prior to administration of a vaccine.
- ✓ Ensure there is at least 14 days before the vial expires (or longer if the current lab TAT is longer).
- ✓ Record the expiry date in the patients notes so that you are prompted to check.
- ✓ Ensure that the patient label does not cover the expiry date.

- **Wrong Label (Mismatch)**

**OR**

- **Unlabelled Sample Pot**

- ✓ Do not handwrite or print forms or labels in advance of the clinic.
- ✓ Check the patient's full name, date of birth and address when they arrive.
- ✓ Label the vial while the patient is dressing or undressing, and ask the patient to check their details on the form and vial are correct before they leave.
- ✓ Ask a colleague to check the form and vial match for each patient before collection (this could be an admin function).
- ✓

### **Remember**

Check patient details on arrival.

Attach ID label to vial, ensure patient checks details prior to leaving.

Review date of previous sample.

Expiry date of vial should always be checked prior to sample collection.