

**ONE MINUTE GUIDE**

**Using Cancer Wise Leeds Cervical Screening Cards**

* **In pharmacy prescription bags**
* **In GP surgeries**

**Background – why do this?**

NHS cervical screening is a national screening programme that checks the cells of the cervix for the presence of high-risk HPV, which causes almost all cervical cancers. If HPV is found the sample is checked for signs of cell changes in the cervix, helping to prevent cancer by allowing abnormal changes to be treated before they can become cancer.

People registered as a woman with their GP, aged 25 to 64, who live in England, are automatically sent a letter every three or five years, depending on age, inviting them to attend cervical screening.

Cancer Wise Leeds (CWL) have worked with local communities, GP surgeries and wider Primary Care Networks to raise awareness of the importance of cancer screening and to encourage patients to attend their cervical screening when invited. Since COVID-19, cancer screening and attendance has been affected. As such, CWL have explored new ways of communicating important cancer screening messages to patients. One method already adopted in some areas is to place a cancer screening card into dispensed prescription bags, for patients who are of eligible screening age (aged 25 – 64).

**Card template (access a printable PDF version within the list of landing page resources)**

Graphical user interface, application

Description automatically generatedGraphical user interface, application

Description automatically generated

**Suggestions for use**

The Pharmacy Technician or another nominated person within the practice could take the lead in contacting all the pharmacies within the practice population area, to invite and encourage pharmacy staff to adopt the routine of adding cervical screening cards to prescription bags, of those who are of eligible screening age. The cards can also be used within the GP practice by reception and other practice staff, to engage in opportunistic conversations with patients of eligible screening age**.**

**You could use the PDF printable card template listed within the landing page of resources to order a supply of cards from your choice of supplier.**