

December 2024

## London NHS Cervical Screening Programme

Implementation of [Section 6.12 of NHS Cervical Screening Programme \(NHSCSP\) guidance](#) \* for the acceptance of samples in laboratories, will take place from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025.

All sample takers, including trainees working in London must be correctly registered on the London Cervical Sample Taker Database (LonCSTD), held and managed by Cervical Screening London (CSL) laboratories. **All cervical samples must include a valid LonCSTD Personal Identification Number (PIN).**

### What does this mean for cervical sample takers in London?

- Ensure you know your London Cervical Sample Taker Database (LonCSTD PIN). If you are already registered and use your valid LonCSTD PIN, **no further action is required.**
- If you have not previously registered on the LonCSTD or forgotten your password, visit this link [LonCSTD](#) to complete the appropriate registration form or “forgotten password” button. **Please do not re-register.**
- [LonCSTD](#) provides registration advice for Medically Trained, Qualified and Trainee Sample Takers.

### How do I check if I have a correct or valid LonCSTD PIN?

- Your LonCSTD will always be in the following format:  
**XNNNL** X = Letter N = Number L = London  
**XNNNLT** T = Trainee sample taker
- If you access the [LonCSTD](#) your PIN will be visible within your profile, allowing you to check

### How will this impact my practice?

- Samples with an absent or invalid PIN will be reported in line with the national guidance\* above.
- This may mean as a sample taker your ‘HPV Unavailable’ and /or ‘Cytology Inadequate’ rates will increase.
- This will increase the number of your patients who need a repeat test or referral to colposcopy as a result of consecutive ‘HPV Unavailable’ and / or ‘Cytology Inadequate’ results. See section 4.1. [Management and referral guidelines for colposcopy - GOV.UK](#)

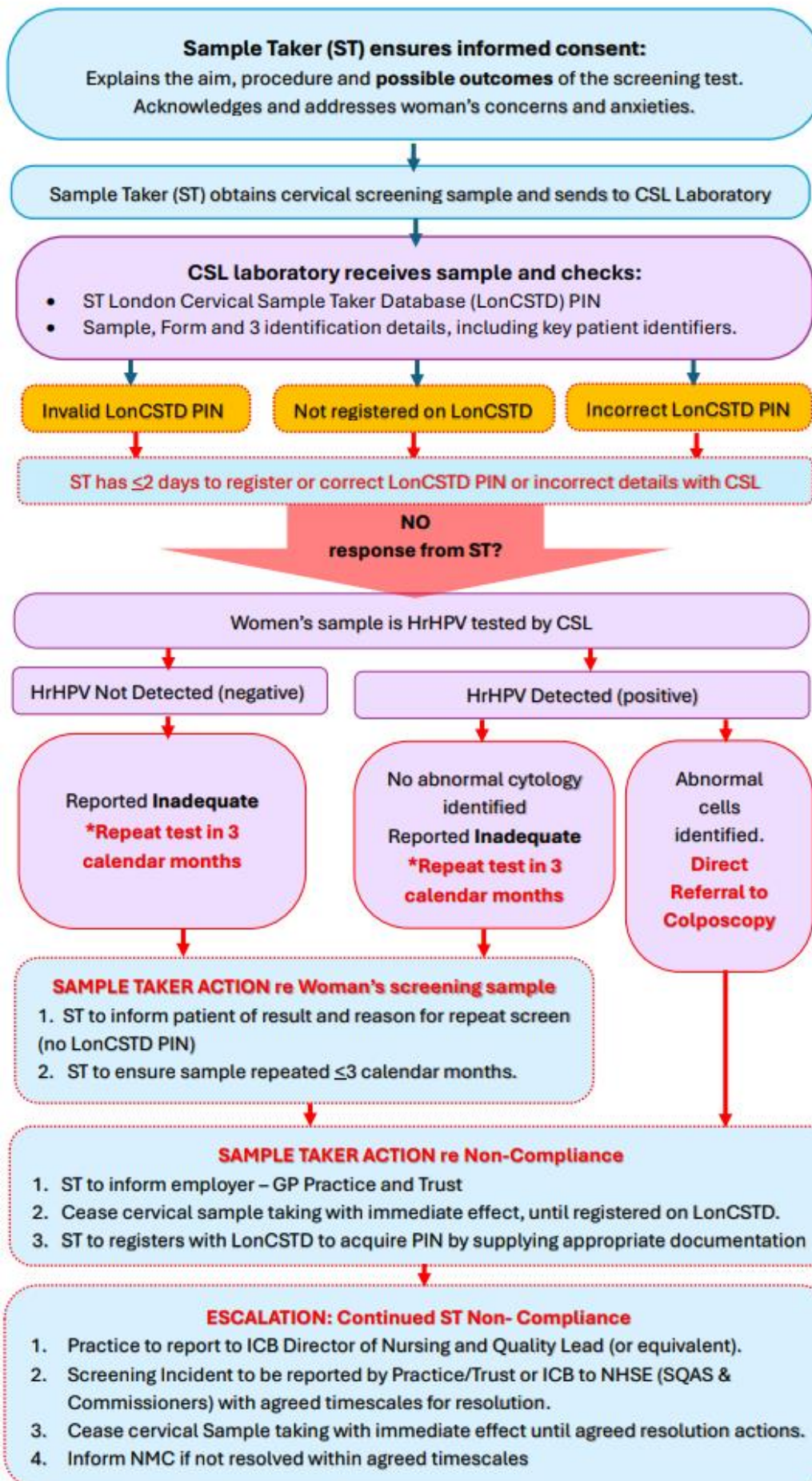
### What happens if I don’t use my LonCSTD PIN?

- CSL will contact the practice as soon as possible after sample receipt in the laboratory to notify the practice of the error.
- If the practice can confirm a valid LonCSTD PIN the sample will be processed using the routine pathway.
- If no response is received, or, a valid PIN cannot be provided within 2 working days of receiving the sample the sample will be reported in accordance with the guidance above.
- **See flow chart below re Management process for Cervical Screening Test Request Forms with no, or invalid London Cervical Sample Taker Database (LonCSTD) PIN, from 01 Jan 2025**

### What if I am already registered on another Sample Taker Database?

- Each cervical screening laboratory is required to maintain a database of sample takers in their region.
- If you work outside London region you will need to register with the relevant regional database.

Management process for Cervical Screening Test Request Forms with no, or invalid London Cervical Sample Taker Database (LonCSTD) PIN, from 01 Jan 2025



**Reference**

[Guidance for acceptance of cervical screening samples in laboratories and pathways, roles and responsibilities - GOV.UK](#)

**6.12 Personal Identification number (PIN) absent or invalid**

- ST PIN should be present & valid to confirm ST is appropriately trained & competent in cervical sample taking.
- Absence of a valid ST PIN on the sample request forms requires investigation before reporting.
- If the ST PIN information can be confirmed, the sample can be reported.
- **Sample takers must not use a PIN belonging to someone else.**
- Trainee STs must use a unique PIN that identifies them as a trainee.
- If the ST PIN is invalid or not provided, the sample should be HrHPV tested and reported as HPV inadequate (HPV-U) if the HPV test is negative.
- If HrHPV is positive, then cytology should be examined and reported as cytology inadequate unless abnormal cells are identified.

**\* 7. Laboratory management advice for tests requiring a repeat sample**

- Unable to process sample. Please repeat in no less than 3 months from initial sample. Do not repeat immediately as the cervical epithelium needs time to regenerate and the test result may be unreliable

[Cervical screening: programme and colposcopy management - GOV.UK](#) 2. Management and referral guidelines for colposcopy - GOV.UK

**\*4.2 Inadequate samples**

Individuals who have 2 consecutive HPV unavailable or inadequate cytology results, in any combination, are referred to colposcopy.