**Private & Confidential**

Date

Name

Address 1

Address 2

Postcode

Dear <<patient name>>

**Your Cervical Smear Test**

According to our records you are due to attend for a cervical smear. Cervical screening is not a test for cancer, it is a method of preventing cancer by detecting and treating early changes and abnormalities which if left untreated, could lead to cancer.

Having a cervical smear test is important for all eligible women aged between 24 ½ and 65 years of age. Cervical cancer is the most common form of cancer in women aged under 35. However, the risk of cervical cancer increases with age. As your GP we would encourage you to attend for your smear test up until the final invitation. Many women find the idea of having the test embarrassing. Even if you have missed previous appointments, our practice nurse understands how you may be feeling and she will try her best to make your test as simple, quick and comfortable as possible.

**Ever heard of Human Papillomavirus (HPV)**

HPV is a common virus that is easily passed on during sexual activity between partners. Most women get it at some point in their lives. If you have not been sexually active recently, or if you have not been sexually active with a man, you should still consider attending your cervical smear test.

Some High-risk HPV types can cause cervical cancer. For most of us our immune systems get rid of HPV however HPV may stay in the body (persist) for years.

Your sample will be tested for HPV at the laboratory, if high risk HPV types are found your sample will be looked at for abnormal cells. If abnormal cells are found, you will be referred to the hospital for further investigation and or treatment.

**Booking your appointment**

Even if you have missed previous invites, you just need to book an appointment through your GP Practice booking system. This may also include out of hours appointments. You can also make an appointment with our practice nurse to discuss the test. She will be happy to answer any questions you have. The results of the tests and any conversations you have will be in confidence.

As a GP I would encourage you to attend for your cervical screening.

Yours sincerely

**<< Female GP (if possible)>>**