**Private & Confidential**

Date

Name

Address 1

Address 2

Postcode

Dear <<patient name>>

**Your Cervical Screening Test**

I am writing to you as when you reach 24 ½ years of age you will receive an invitation to attend for your first cervical screening test.

**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. Some High-risk HPV types can cause cervical cancer. For most of us our immune systems get rid of HPV.

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.

**I’ve had the HPV vaccination at school – Do I need to attend for my test?**

Yes! If you had the HPV vaccination’s, then the cervical screening test is still important. The vaccine protects against 7 in 10 (70%) cases of cervical cancer, screening may find other high risk HPV types.

**Remember**

The cervical screening test 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.

You will receive your first invitation when you are 24 ½ years of age, the test can not be taken before this time.

If you have any unusual bleeding such as in between periods or after sex then it is advised you make an appointment to see a GP.

I understand you may feel embarrassed or worried about attending and would be happy for you to make an appointment with me to discuss any concerns.

Any conversations you have will be in confidence.

Yours sincerely

**<< Female Practice Nurse>>**