**“How to Guide”: Cervical Smear Taking during COVID 19**

**Pre Appointment – The following questions may be asked via telephone, the day before the appointment.**

(Ensure patient is due smear via SCCRs before making appointment)

|  |
| --- |
| Advise patient regarding surgery booking in procedure.  Explain appointment is only for smear procedure and advise reason for call (reception will have advised nurse will call them prior to procedure)“to update some information” |
| Confirm that individual has NO COVID-19 symptoms if has symptoms give appropriate advice, along with advice to reschedule smear appointment <https://www.nhsinform.scot/self-help-guides/self-help-guide-coronavirus-covid-19> |
| Advise individual that they should attend appointment alone and if chaperone requested, discuss options , possibly member of practice staff  [Genital Examination in Women](https://www.bing.com/search?q=rcn+chaperone+guidelines&cvid=ad65c635a5fe4df889fcf2c329a92906&aqs=edge.0.0.7311j0j4&FORM=ANAB01&PC=U531) |
| Explain & confirm that the patient understands the purpose of screening and HPV Testing and revised timescales for future smears |
| Explains the smear taking procedure |
| Ask appropriate pre smear questions for entry to sccrs when attends  Opportunity to discuss HRT/contraception advice and reviews  Offer to answer any questions or concerns |
| Discuss possible results, how they will be communicated and timescale.  Discuss action to take if any future symptoms |

**Pre-Procedure**

|  |
| --- |
| Personal Protective Equipment. No requirement for nurse to wear full protective gown. (If nurses skin comes into contact with individual, wash with soap and water) [PPE for direct care delivery (non AGPs) on the NON Respiratory Pathway)](https://www.nipcm.hps.scot.nhs.uk/media/1715/2021-11-11-ppe-on-non-respiratory-pathway_poster_a4-final.pdf) |
| Ask above ‘pre appointment’ questions, if pre appointment phone call was not carried out |
| Be prepared with all equipment and positioning before calling patient, Don PPE, ensure hand sanitising products are available |
| CHECKS EXPIRY DATE OF THIN PREP POT |
| Be sensitive to any potential issues such as FGM & gender based violence throughout |

**Cervical Smear**

|  |
| --- |
| Welcome the patient, introduce self. Confirm details. (with practice record and sccrs record) Ask patient to sanitise hands and avoid touching surfaces (including curtains/screens, if used)  (Provided curtains have been tied back during the examination and no contamination is evident, these can be left in situ. Otherwise, unless any obvious contamination, it is recommended they are washed weekly) |
| Gains Consent (consider behavioural consent) |
| Ensures privacy at all times |
| Positions the patient correctly as patient ability permits. |
| Uses lighting & variable couch height effectively |
| Explains procedure throughout, offering reassurance and putting the patient at ease |
| Correct usage of lubricant if required (pea-sized amount) |
| Selects appropriate size of speculum |
| Rotates brush 5 times in clockwise direction & transfers cells to pot effectively |
| Align black squares on the pot & applies label correctly |
| Records smear on SCRRS, documenting any relevant details |
| Offers sanitary wear if required, and facilities for patient to wash their hands |

**Post Procedure**

|  |
| --- |
| Thank the patient for attending, advice to avoid touching any surfaces on exit |
| Clean room as per guidance  (ensure HPS most current update used) |