



National Health Service in Scotland
Management Executive

St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Dear Colleague

**GUIDELINES ON FAILSAFE ACTIONS FOR THE
FOLLOW-UP OF WOMEN WITH ABNORMAL CERVICAL
SMEAR RESULTS**

13 March 1995

Summary

1. This MEL asks General Managers of Health Boards and Chief Executives of NHS Trusts to review arrangements for appropriate action in the event of an abnormal smear test result to ensure that they are in accordance with the attached Guidelines on Failsafe Actions for the Follow-up of Women with Abnormal Cervical Smear Histories.

Addresses

For action:

General Managers,
Health Boards
Chief Executives,
NHS Trusts

For information:

General Manager,
Health Education Board
for Scotland
CAMOs
Primary Care
Administrators, Health
Boards

Other information

2. The Guidelines have been drawn up by a working group within the Scottish Office Home and Health Department and based on Guidelines issued by the Department of Health. Both the Strong Report (1987) and the Inverclyde Report (1993) made it clear that the responsibility for follow-up action in abnormal results was the responsibility of the originator of the smear. However, there must be failsafe systems in place to ensure that the correct follow-up action is taken, particularly for women apparently lost to follow-up.

To be copied to:

Unit General Managers
for information

Action

3. General Managers and Trust Chief Executives are asked to ensure that failsafe arrangements are in place for the follow-up of abnormal smear test results, taking account of the Guidelines on Failsafe Actions; and that the Guidelines inform contracting for the cervical screening programme.

Additional copies and
enquiries to:

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NHS Management
Executive
Room 52
St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DG

4. Health Boards are asked to make arrangements for the distribution of the summary guidelines to General Practitioners, practice nurses and other appropriate health professionals.

5. Trust Chief Executives are asked to ensure that laboratories providing a cervical cytology service are provided with copies of these guidelines.

Tel: 0131-244-2328

Yours sincerely

Patricia Russell

PATRICIA RUSSELL
Acting Head of Health Gain

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