



Welcome to the first Sample Taker Update of 2023.

### Practice Manager alert

#### LonCSTD Audit of Sample Takers

It's that time of year again! Please note that the LonCSTD administration team will be shortly sending out a questionnaire to confirm details of all cervical sample takers across London.

Practice managers, please help us to help you and return the completed form as soon as possible.

#### Mislabelling errors – Let's Get it Right First Time

CSL has noted an increasing number of safety incidents due to the mislabelling of samples. Please remind your sample takers to do a final check to ensure samples are correctly labelled in line with the Sample Acceptance Policy.

#### Non-Cervical samples continue to be an issue

Please remind practice and clinic staff NOT to place blood, swabs and other samples in the transport bag marked Cervical Samples Only. These samples are intended for other laboratories. This causes delays as well as requiring repeat appointments in primary care and causing increased anxiety for patients.

#### From 1st February, the report on a Non-Cervical Samples will read as follows:

'We have received non-cervical samples in a CSL transport bag marked Cervical Samples Only. If this sample is for histopathology, we will ensure it reaches the correct location. Otherwise please repeat the sample as delay caused by unnecessary transit to the CSL laboratory adversely impacts the sample stability and therefore the accuracy of the result.'

#### Faster Test Results

Did you know that you can receive electronic copies of your results?

This can be set up for you if you contact the HSL's IT department at [helpdesk@tdlpathology.com](mailto:helpdesk@tdlpathology.com)

### Some facts and figures from 2022

- Post-Covid CSL began to see activity return to pre-pandemic levels
- 688,000 samples reported compared to 712,000 in 2021 – a decrease of 3%
- 84.5% samples met the 12-day turnaround target
- CSL remains committed to closing the gap and reaching the 98% turnaround target
- Several initiatives are underway in the laboratory to improve turnaround times

#### How did CSL compare with other laboratory providers in December 2022?

Region	% Cases meeting 12-day target
<b>England</b>	<b>82.6</b>
South West	96.0
South East	91.7
West Midlands	89.4
East Midlands	89.1
London	87.9
East of England	81.5
North East	79.8
North West	50.5

#### London Failsafe success

- <0.04% patients lost to follow up, the national target is <5%

The Failsafe Team at CSL works collaboratively with primary and secondary care to reduce the number of women lost to follow up. Thank you for all your support in helping CSL complete our records. Your timely response to failsafe queries from the laboratory is greatly appreciated.

#### Setting up a new service or Extended Hub

Setting up a new service is complex especially the IT requirements. CSL requires a minimum of 4 weeks' lead time to configure. It is also important to inform NHSE of any planned changes to services.

## London Cervical Sample Taker Database

CSL is delighted to announce an updated version of the LonCSTD has been released at <https://loncstd.england.nhs.uk>

The new version has been designed to simplify the self-registration process for sample takers.

A user guide is available on the database, or alternatively contact [csl.cstd@nhs.net](mailto:csl.cstd@nhs.net) for a copy of the user guide.

## National Data taken from annual KC61 Data Submission (Apr 21– Mar 22)

### 69.9% of eligible individuals aged 25 to 64 adequately screened

A 0.3 percentage point decrease on the previous year, when coverage was 70.2% (coverage assessed at 31 March 2022).

### 5.12 million individuals aged 25 to 64 invited for screening

An increase of 11.6% on the previous year, when 4.59 million were invited (invitation letters sent during 2021–22, excludes reminders).

### 3.50 million individuals aged 25 to 64 tested

An increase of 15.5% on the previous year, when 3.03 million were tested (tested in 2021–22).

### 235,223 referrals to colposcopy in 2021–22

An increase of 33.2% from the previous year, when 176,561 were referred (all ages).

## Accuracy matters

The efficiency of a high-quality screening service relies on everyone getting it right first time.

The Cervical Screening Administration (CSAS) regularly provides data to all the laboratories on the number of cases which have to be manually matched. London has almost twice as many non-hits (10.3%) compared to the national average (5.81%). This is mainly due to inaccurate information provided by sample takers at time of sample taking.

## Manual matching figures

‘Non hits’ are where CSAS need to ‘manually match’ data that does not directly match the information held on the NHAIS system.

The sample taker is responsible for making sure that the sample and request submitted relate to the correct person. It is essential that the sample taker checks with the individual that:

- their details on the downloaded request form are correct
- their correspondence address is current
- the personal details relate to them and are correct (such as their full name and date of birth)

If the address is not current, advise the call and recall service of the new details as soon as possible. This will prevent downloaded results from laboratories being rejected or correspondence sent to the wrong address.

The sample taker is responsible for making sure that the person is contactable so they can be advised of any further tests or investigations needed following screening.

Please see the following link for more information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cervical-screening-accepting-samples-in-laboratories/guidance-for-acceptance-of-cervical-screening-samples-in-laboratories-and-pathways-roles-and-responsibilities>

Nat Code/Lab	61025/London	National
Month	Nov 2022	Nov 2022
Total results	60,590	307,677
Total hits	54,329	289,803
Hits %	89.67%	94.19%
Non hits	6,261	17,874
Non hits %	10.33%	5.81%
Change from previous month	0.06%	0.11%

## 6,921 Cervical Samples Rejected in 2022

Rejected samples create anxiety for the individuals who have undergone having a cervical sample taken. They also create additional work for sample takers and the laboratory.

The following table shows a breakdown of the 6,921 samples rejected in 2022.

E1: Vial received without form	81
E2: Form received without vial	51
E3: Vial is unlabelled	957
E4a: Vial is only partially labelled	10
E4b: Multiple minor discrepancies (two or more)	784
E5: Patient details on form and vial do not match	501
E6: Insufficient patient details on form	429
E7: Patient details differ from cytology records	1
E8: Valid PIN not provided	
E9: Samples in poor condition – Vial spilt in transit/brush inappropriately missing or present/insufficient fluid	87
E10: Form/vial details illegible	28
E11: Out of programme sample (age, too early repeat, inappropriate vault)	3,983
E12: Out of date vial	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,921</b>

Some helpful tips to reduce the number of rejected samples, ideally when individual phones to book a cervical screening appointment

- Check if the individual has received an invitation letter, if in doubt,
- Check Open Exeter to determine 'Next Test Due Date' before sample is taken and check details on the sample and form have been fully completed before sending

Reminder – Samples will be rejected if:

- Cervical samples taken more than THREE months BEFORE the due date.
- Samples repeated in less than THREE months after an Inadequate/Unreliable result.
- Sample unlabelled/insufficiently labelled sample/request form
- LBC vial is out of date – please check before sending.

## Visitors to the Laboratory

CSL still adheres to Covid-safe working practices but is delighted to host sample takers on site at the Halo Building, 1 Mabledon Place, London. CSL has welcomed over 200 trainee sample takers to the laboratory.

Email [csl.queries@nhs.net](mailto:csl.queries@nhs.net) if you would like to arrange a visit.

## Jo's Trust

CSL looks forward to hosting a visit by Jo's Trust to the laboratory in March. We look forward to sharing the experience with you in the next Sample Taker Update.

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