

Our 2017 Manifesto



Help us reach the day where no woman dies from cervical cancer.

1. Preventing cervical cancer must be a priority on the next government's agenda
2. With action across government and the health service, we could see a 10% reduction in incidence by the end of the next parliament in 2022
3. Cervical cancer could be eradicated in the UK and we want to reach that day as soon as possible so that no woman has to face a life-threatening diagnosis
4. Until then, every woman diagnosed should have the best care, support and treatment possible

Key facts about cervical cancer

- Diagnoses of cervical cancer are increasing
- Last year over 3,200 women were given a life changing diagnosis, 890 women sadly lost their lives to the disease
- A further 220,000 women are told every year they have a cervical abnormality that may require treatment
- Cervical cancer is the most common cancer in women under 35
- **It can be prevented**

Cervical screening prevents 75% of cervical cancers saving around 5,000 lives a year in the UK yet uptake is at a 19-year low with 1 in 4 women not attending. Among certain groups this number is even higher, including women aged 25 to 29, women with a learning disability and those from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities.

The NHS spends around £21 million a year on cervical cancer treatments alone and the state loses £9 million in tax revenue, if cervical screening attendance continue to fall, the costs to the individual, the NHS and the state will rise significantly.

The HPV vaccination protects against 70% of cervical cancers and while current uptake is high, at 85.1%, in some areas it is as low as 43.7%.

What needs to change?

1. Increased awareness about cervical cancer and how it can be prevented

- The government should commit to eradicating cervical cancer by 2050 and develop an action plan to achieve this goal

Cervical screening must be made more accessible:

- Women should be able to access screening at GP surgeries other than the one they are registered with e.g. a surgery close to their work
- Screening should be available at all sexual health clinics
- Self-sampling should be available as part of the screening programme

Cervical screening uptake must be increased:

- The government, NHS England, Public Health England and local authorities need to work together to ensure this becomes a priority and a reality
- Stronger local and national GP incentives should be set to encourage investment and activity
- Investment is needed in targeted awareness campaigns and outreach to groups of women and areas where screening attendance is particularly low

HPV vaccination uptake must remain high:

- The government, NHS, public health bodies, local authorities, GPs and education providers should work together to ensure uptake does not fall and aim to increase uptake

Improved awareness about the symptoms of cervical cancer:

- There should be a national symptoms campaign as part of the 'Be Clear on Cancer' campaign
- Health care professionals, in particular GPs, must be more aware of the NHS pathway for young women under 25 presenting with symptoms

2. Better support for women affected

- Every woman diagnosed with cervical cancer or cervical abnormalities should be given the best possible care, treatment and support
- Every woman should be told about Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust and its services at the point of diagnosis to reduce feelings of isolation, anxiety and uncertainty
- The psychological and emotional needs of patients are too often neglected and should be addressed throughout treatment and after care
- Support related to changes and loss of fertility should be given for all women affected
- Every health care professional working in secondary care should be aware of Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust and proactively refer cervical cancer patients to its services

Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust is the only UK charity dedicated to women affected by cervical cancer and cervical abnormalities.

Support us in our vision to make cervical cancer a disease of the past

1. Show your support on social media:

I'm supporting @jostrust manifesto on #cervicalcancer and their vision of a day where no woman dies from cervical cancer #GE17

2. Contact us at jane@jostrust.org.uk to tell us you support our manifesto and would like to work with us in the next parliament to help reach a day where no woman dies from cervical cancer.

Sources

The statistics in this factsheet come from a range of sources including the UK's cervical screening programmes, CRUK and Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust. For more information contact the charity on info@jostrust.org.uk or call 020 7250 8311