

## Cervical Screening Programme (CSP)



### Cervical Cancer

Cervical cancer is a common cancer among females in Hong Kong. It was the fourth commonest female cancer in 2003 and the eighth commonest cause of female cancer deaths in 2004. Risk factors for cervical cancer include infection with human papillomavirus (HPV), sexual activity at an early age, having multiple sexual partners, smoking and lack of vegetables and fruits in diet. One should avoid these factors such as practising safer sex by using condom or having single sexual partner, not smoking and having adequate intake of fruit and vegetable, in order to prevent cervical cancer.

### Screening for cervical cancer

Cervical cancer is usually preceded by abnormal changes in the cervical cells which can occur without any symptoms. Cervical smear is a screening test that can detect these abnormalities. With early detection and prompt management, progression of such lesion can be prevented. It has been shown that organized population-based screening is very effective in reducing incidence and deaths due to cervical cancer.

### Cervical smear

This is a safe and simple test that takes only a few minutes. All women aged 25-64 years who have ever had sex are recommended to have regular smears. Women who do not belong to this age range should seek doctor's advice concerning the need for cervical smear. Women who have never had sex or who have hysterectomy do not need this test.

### Screening interval

If the first 2 annual cervical smears show normal results, repeat smears every 3 years. In other words, the screening interval can follow the sequence of 1 year, 1 year, 3 year, 3 year and so on.



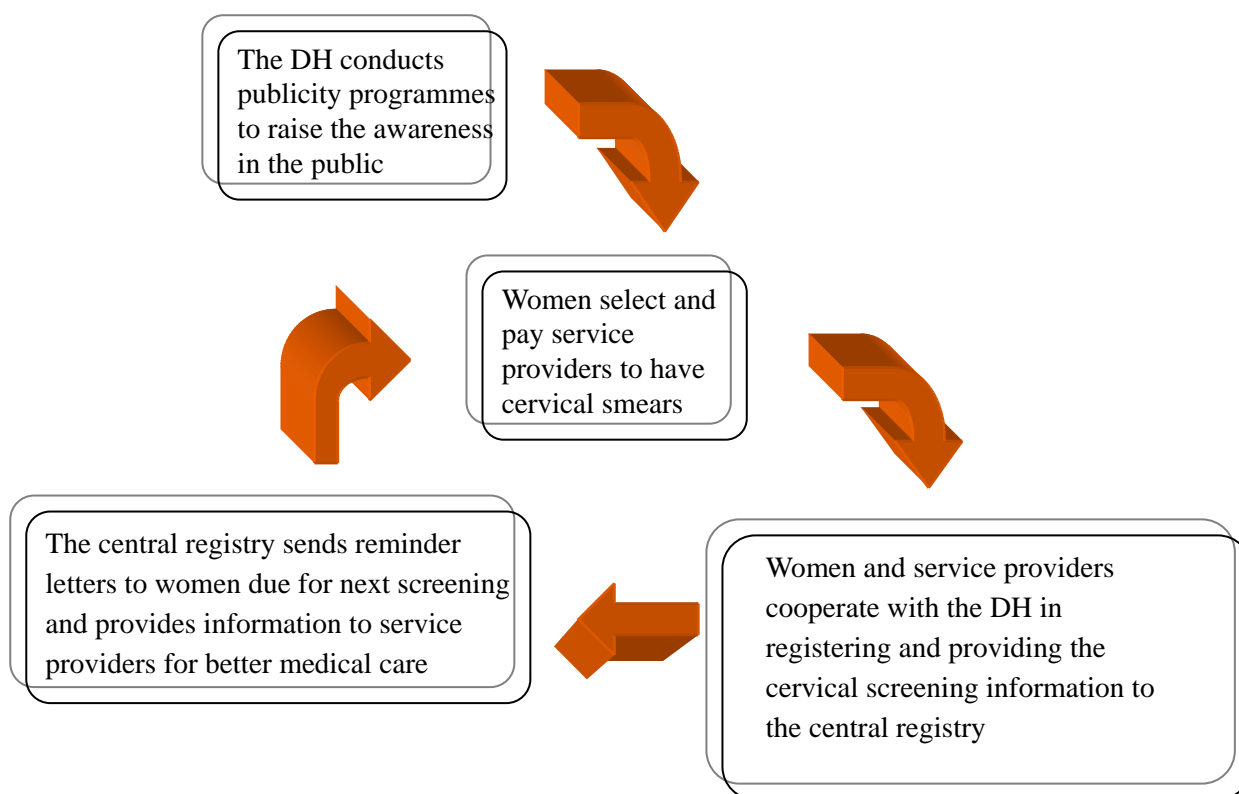
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Department of Health

## Cervical Screening Programme

This is a territory-wide screening programme launched by the Department of Health (DH) in collaboration with public and private health care providers and laboratories. The objectives are to increase the public awareness and hence the population coverage rate of cervical screening among women and to reduce the incidence and mortality of cervical cancer in Hong Kong. The programme runs an electronic central registry for storing participants' information.

### Flowchart of Cervical Screening Programme



### Further information

For more information, please visit our website: [www.cervicalscreening.gov.hk](http://www.cervicalscreening.gov.hk).