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Announcement of methodological changes to Cervical screening programme - England, 2010-11 [NS]¹

Time from screening to receipt of result

In previous years, this publication has reported the 'time from screening to *availability* of result' which is measured as the number of days from the sample being taken to the result being *sent* by the primary care organisation (PCO) to the woman (not to the woman *receiving* the result). This year, information on 'time from screening to *receipt* of result' is reported as this measure is considered to be of more interest to users of these statistics. 'Time from screening to receipt of result' is measured using an expected delivery date based on the date of letter printing and the postage class used by the PCO.

As in previous years, Table 9 and 9a of this publication present figures at both regional and local level for 'time from screening to *availability* of result'. In addition, Table 9b and 9c present figures at regional and local level for 'time from screening to *receipt* of result', as measured by expected delivery date'.

The NHS IC does not intend to publish statistics on 'time from screening to availability of results' in publications for 2011-12 onwards. Users of the publication who have any concerns about this change should contact the NHS IC:

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¹ [NS] denotes that the publication has National Statistics status