

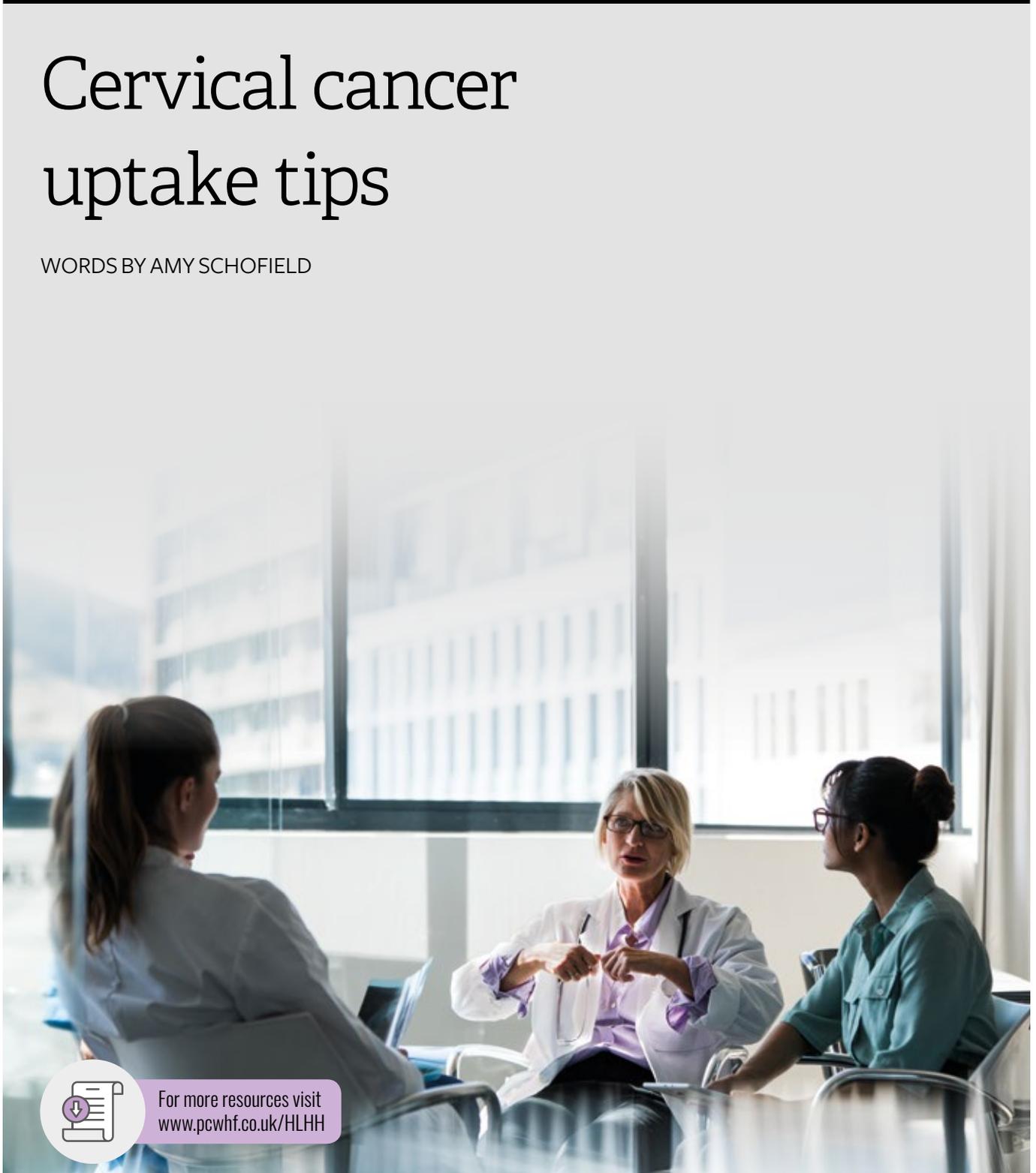
HerLife HerHealth



PRIMARY CARE
WOMEN'S HEALTH FORUM

Cervical cancer uptake tips

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Cervical cancer uptake tips

Dr Anne Connolly's tips

- 1.** Get everyone involved in giving a consistent message, including receptionists.
 - 2.** Agree that doctors and nurses will take smears opportunistically, even when in busy clinics.
 - 3.** If women fail to book their appointments after receiving the usual invitation letters, rewrite your letters to make them more 'friendly'.
 - 4.** Encourage women to bring a friend for support.
 - 5.** Involve reception staff in minding children when necessary, and don't send women away if they are unable to attend otherwise.
 - 6.** Use the patient group to help with information to be posted on the message board.
 - 7.** Use every opportunity to encourage women to attend by clearly explaining the procedure and making sure that questions are answered in a non-judgemental way.
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Cervical cancer uptake tips

PCWHF Member tips

Poole Hospital Trust has a staff cervical screening day for all eligible staff who cannot make the appointments at their GP's due to their shift pattern.

Benita Fillingham, Sister, Harbourside Gynaecology Unit, Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Simple intervention: if a woman books an appointment and is overdue a smear, we ask the question: can we arrange a smear test for you? GPs and nurses have been doing opportunistically if time allows. Reception puts a smear comment on EMIS next to appointment slot. This increased uptake from 77% to 78% in 1m.

Via PCWHF Twitter

For anxious women or if previous smears have caused pain, offer diazepam 5mg the night before and 1 to 2 hours before the smear.

Dr Katharine Morrison

An anonymous practice nurse shares that finding 7am practice nurse appointments is good for patients who prefer to have a shower before their appointment.

Working women regularly tell her that they like early smears before 8am on their way to work, as they feel fresh, so it's less embarrassing for them. "It's nice to offer a slot that goes down well with women who work long hours and have family commitments. It can be hard for them to find a convenient time to come otherwise," she says.

Jacey Practice, Solihull, has started hosting a monthly drop-in smear open day, covering a five-and-a-half-hour period between 2pm and 7.30pm.

Bunting and cake are included. As the team put it, "We are at your cervix!"

An East Sussex-based practice undertook a search of all of its non-attenders and overdue screens and of a list size of 13,500 patients, found 604 overdue screens. An HCA contacted these ladies over a period of about 2 months and if they were willing, made them an appointment for their screen.

The majority who were willing turned up for their appointments. *Jenny Greenfield, Nurse Manager/Specialist Practitioner, Independent Trainer, Meridian Surgery, Peacehaven*

The Midlands Medical Partnership (MMP) has worked in conjunction with its practice nurses to start walk-in smear clinics. They have increased the uptake by 6% by offering these clinics in the daytime and evenings, no appointment necessary, so women can walk-in at a time convenient to them. Being a Provider at Scale has the advantage of being able to recall patients centrally, with a dedicated team and with this facility too, MMP increased overall uptake by 7.28%.

Dr Karen Watson from the MMP, a super partnership of 11 practices in Birmingham

