

## Update – June 2023

### Minister Donnelly launches new diabetic retinopathy pathway for pregnant women

On 14 June, Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly joined the NSS in the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital in Dublin to launch a new Diabetic RetinaScreen (DRS) screening initiative for women who have diabetes and become pregnant. The risk of diabetic retinopathy may increase during pregnancy and this new initiative provides more frequent screening to women, protecting their sight during pregnancy.

The *Diabetic Retina Screening in Pregnancy* leaflet and poster are available to order on [healthpromotion.ie](http://healthpromotion.ie) for your surgery practice, maternity clinic or health promotion event.

If you have a query about placing orders, please email [queries@healthpromotion.ie](mailto:queries@healthpromotion.ie).

You can get more information in [our blog](#).

*Pictured at the launch are, from left: DRS Programme Manager Helen Kavanagh; Karen O'Connor of the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital; NSS Chief Executive Fiona Murphy; Consultant Endocrinologist Associate Professor Mensud Hatunic; Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly; patient advocate Vicky Doyle; and DRS Clinical Director Professor David Keegan.*



### CervicalCheck discusses interval cancer reviews with Norwegian screening agency

CervicalCheck Clinical Director Professor Nóirín Russell and Programme Manager Gráinne Gleeson met the Norwegian cervical screening programme *Krefregisteret* in Oslo, to discuss best practise for personal cervical screening reviews. The meetings also discussed the process of interval cancer reviews and disclosure, and the experiences of the Irish programme.

There was a joint workshop in the Norwegian Department of Health with Norwegian breast screening clinicians, and their programme leads for breast and cervical screening. They discussed interval cancer audits, and how and when women should be informed of audit results.

### NSS marks International Men's Health Week



Thank you to everyone who contributed to and supported International Men's Health Week. The theme for the week, which ran from 12-18 June, was *The Picture of Health*, and our messages raised awareness of how screening fits into that picture. We ran a social media campaign ([#MHW2023](#)) featuring BowelScreen and Diabetic RetinaScreen (DRS), and we are grateful to everyone who supported us by retweeting, liking and sharing our posts.

Dr Alan Smith, from our Public Health team, was interviewed on Kilkenny Community Radio – you can listen back to the interview [here](#).

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## New podcast highlights strength in person-centred approach at NSS

Patient and Public Partnership representative Grace Rattigan, and NSS Chief Executive Fiona Murphy were interviewed for the HSE's *Talking Health & Wellbeing* podcast that went live on 8 June.

The podcast episode, *#ChooseScreening*, focused on the person-centred approach used in developing and implementing our strategy, and how we work to ensure that screening is an informed choice for people.

We have also published a [blog](#) about the podcast.

You can listen to the 33-minute podcast on: YouTube -

<https://youtu.be/ptEljyd9k8g>; Spotify - <https://spoti.fi/43pkkPL>; Google - <https://bit.ly/45NiMoD>; and Podbean - <https://bit.ly/3MKaySK>.



## Conference round-up

**RCPI Summer Scientific Meeting:** Director of Evaluation in our Programme Evaluation Unit Professor Patricia Fitzpatrick gave a presentation titled *The co-development of a tailored smoking cessation protocol for and with cancer patients*. NSS Public Health Officers also presented at the meeting, which took place at the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI), on 23-24 May.

**European Diabetic Eye Disease Conference:** Diabetic RetinaScreen (DRS) Clinical Director Professor David Keegan addressed the European Diabetic Eye Disease Conference in Coimbra, Portugal, on 2 June, with a presentation titled *Results of the two-year screening interval initiative within the Irish National Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Programme*.

**International Cancer Screening Network (ICSN) conference:** Our Programme Evaluation Unit presented findings from the Core Research survey at the ICSN conference in Turin, Italy, on 21–23 June. They presented five posters, covering the findings of the survey that explored what drives and inhibits people to attend screening; the impact of COVID-19 delays on colonoscopy outcomes; and the findings of a survey into interval cancer rates in cervical screening programmes.

## Read more about our work

- [Talk to us - we're here to listen](#) describes our procedures for gathering feedback about our services. The blog explains the importance of us hearing what worked well for screening participants, what we could improve, and what didn't work.
- [BowelScreen demonstrates Ireland's world-leading position at recent international meeting](#) was written by Specialist in Public Health Medicine Dr Alan Smith. It describes his presentation last month at the World Endoscopy Organisation, at which he demonstrated the BowelScreen patient-reported experience measures (PREMs) project.
- [Caring for the Carers: understanding barriers to accessing screening](#) marks National Carers Week (12-18 June 2023), and highlights our work with Care Alliance Ireland, to understand barriers for carers.

You can read all our blogs in the [Featured news](#) section of our [website](#).

We value your feedback. Please contact us at: [communications@screeningservice.ie](mailto:communications@screeningservice.ie).

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