

Cervical screening among the non-responders at Walkden Medical Centre, Manchester

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INTRODUCTION

Cervical cancer is the 4th most leading cancer among women in the world. The incidence of cervical cancer has dramatically reduced by primary HPV testing through cervical cancer. All women aged 25 to 64 in the UK are offered to participate the NHS cervical screening programme every 3 to 5 years depending on their age and where they live. When the individuals do not respond to the invitation externally by the call and recall service under the NHS Cervical Screening Programme, they are classified as 'non-responders'. Following that, they will usually receive a reminder letter or short message service (SMS) from the GP practice within 2 weeks. This study aims to evaluate how well the protocol is being followed and review different ways to improve cervical screening uptake.

METHODOLOGY

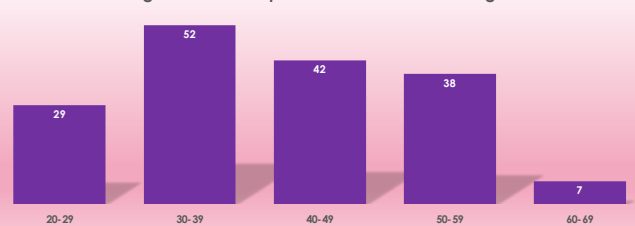
This is a retrospective analysis of 168 for cervical screening at Walkden Medical Centre in Manchester over two years. non-responders. The patients' electronic records on EMIS were extracted from 25th April 2020 to 25th April 2022 using the code system 'cervical smear non-responders' and recorded on Microsoft Excel. The study has included all non-responders for cervical screening.

REFERENCES

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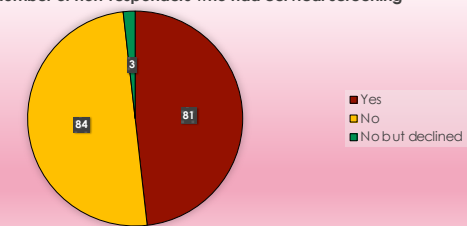
RESULTS

Age of the non-responders for cervical screening



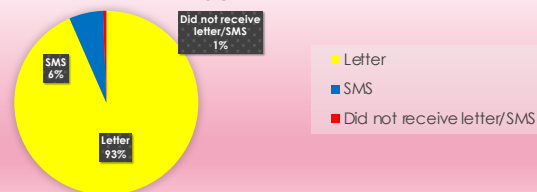
Overall, most non-responders (73.2%) are from the younger age group, with 30 to 39 being the most common age group. 26.8% non-responders are from the age of 50 to 64

Number of non-responders who had cervical screening



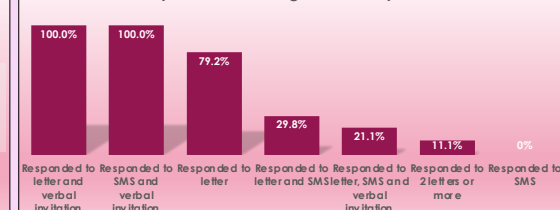
50.0% (84/168) non-responders who had responded to cervical screening
• 48.2% (81/168) responded and agreed to have cervical screening
• 1.8% (3/168) non-responders declined to have cervical screening.
50.0% (84/168) non-responders did not respond to cervical screening throughout this whole study.

The percentage (%) of non-responders who received first reminder from the GP



This study illustrates most non-responders (99.4%) received their first reminder via letter or short message service (SMS). However, there were several non-responders (34.7%) who did not receive the 1st reminder via letter or SMS within 14 days.

Response rate among the non-responders

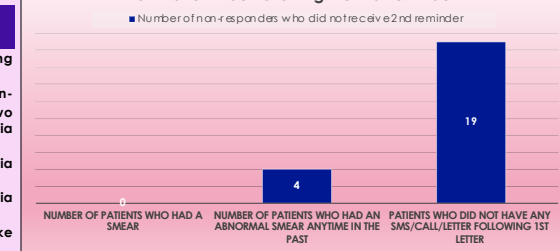


Sending letters was the most common method of communication used to remind the non-responders. Conversely, the response rates from letter and verbal invitation as well as SMS and verbal invitation were 100% respectively.

CONCLUSIONS

- 1) Our study suggests **telephone call** could be provided as a potential intervention in improving cervical screening uptake.
- 2) Our study also indicates that **replacing letter with short message service (SMS)** to remind the non-responders could have a positive impact on cervical screening attendance. We could provide two links in the SMS: (1) cervical screening explanation on NHS website; (2) booking appointment via website.
- 3) A tool for calculating the days for the reminders to be sent from the GP to the non-responders via EMIS alert system
- 4) The implementation of a reminder tool for sending further reminders to the non-responders via the EMIS system
- 5) Further audits on the awareness level of cervical cancer prevention and HPV vaccination uptake among the non-responders

Number of non-responders who did not receive any form of 2nd reminder following their 1st reminder



19 (11.3%) non-responders did not receive any further reminders following their first reminder. This is concerning because 4 of 19 (21.1%) non-responders have a history of abnormal cervical smear. None of the patients attended cervical screening