

## CERVICAL CANCER: FOLLOW-UP OF TEST RESULTS IN THE DANISH SCREENING PROGRAMME

**The follow-up of women at risk of developing cervical cancer can be improved by changing the administrative procedures. A PhD project from Aarhus University, Health, shows an effect of sending electronic follow-up reminders to general practitioners and test results directly to the women.**

One in five Danish woman routinely screened for cervical cancer did not have timely follow-up in 2011. This corresponds to approx. 7,500 women. In the worst case, this could hinder prevention of cancer. Most screening samples are taken in general practice, and the general practitioner (GP) is responsible for communicating test results to the woman and ensuring follow-up. Lack of follow-up occurs more frequently in women with lower social status and is more common in some practices than in others. The Danish Health and Medicines Authority recommended in 2012 that screened women should receive the test results by letter directly from the pathology departments. This should target any communication problems as the letter can be forwarded systematically to all women without delay. In addition, it was recommended that the GPs should have an electronic reminder if the woman did not receive follow-up. This should target any administrative challenges related to lack of follow-up.

Two large studies now show that the introduction of direct letters to tested women and electronic reminders to the GPs means that more women receive follow-up. However, some women do still not receive timely follow-up. The new knowledge can help optimize the national screening programme.

Bettina Kjær Kristiansen will defend her PhD dissertation on 17 May 2017 at 2 p.m. in room 101 (*Samfundsmedicinsk Auditorium*), building 1262, Aarhus University, Bartholins Allé 4, DK-8000 Aarhus C.

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