Table S1. Semi-structured topic guide for interviews

**TOPIC GUIDE FOR QUALITATIVE INTERVIEWS**

1. Getting the HPV test

What led to you getting the HPV test carried out?  
(prompts: abnormal smear, suggested by your healthcare provider)

Had you heard of HPV before this?  
*If yes:* What was your understanding of HPV?

What were told about HPV then? What did they tell you?  
(prompts: by doctor, nurse, other healthcare provider)

At that point, did you get/look for information about HPV anywhere else?  
(prompts: friends, family, partner, internet, other media).

Did you discuss getting the HPV test with your healthcare provider? How was the decision made?

*If the patient had a smear test prior to HPV test:*  
What was your understanding of a smear test? (as distinct from a HPV test)

What was your understanding of an abnormal smear?

2. HPV result and its impact

Who told you the result of your test?  

What did they say?  

How did you feel at the time?  

If you think back to how you felt when you got an abnormal smear, was there any difference in how you felt then and with the HPV test? Can you tell me a bit about that?

*If a negative result, go to section 2a*

What were you told about the result, and what it meant?  

Were you given a chance to ask questions? When? Was it enough?  

Did your understanding of HPV change in any way at this stage?  

Did you go to other sources for information then?  
(prompts: friends, internet, magazines).

As time passed, was there any change in how you felt about the test outcome?
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3. Coping and disclosure

How did you cope with the outcome?  
(prompts: telling friends or family, seeking counselling support, …)

Since the HPV test was taken, have you thought about it very often? (prompt for examples)

Did you tell anyone about it? Who did you tell?

How did you feel telling them?
  Was this helpful?
  In what way did you find it helpful?

How did you feel afterwards?
  If interviewee told no one: how did you feel about deciding not to tell anyone?
  Was there a reason for this?
  Did you tell anyone you had an abnormal smear?  
  (if yes - was there a reason why you felt ok to talk about smear and not HPV test?)

Is there anyone you would never tell? Why not?

Is there anyone you really wanted to tell, but didn’t?

4. HPV and other factors/life events

- What was your experience of the healthcare delivery in the clinic where the test was carried out?
  o What impact (if any) do you feel this had on your experience of the test?
  o What impact (if any) do you feel this had on your attitude to it?
  o What impact (if any) do you feel this had on the questions that were raised for you about it?
  o What impact (if any) do you feel this had on any concerns you may have had about the HPV test?
  o What about your experience of healthcare delivery outside the clinic – how has this been?
    Do you think it has had any impact on your experience of the test?

- Is there anything else that you think might have affected your experience of getting the HPV test?
  o (prompts: level of experience of receiving healthcare/gynaecological healthcare; personal attitude; other significant life experiences occurring at this time such as marriage, pregnancy, bereavement…)

- From your own experience, how would you describe the level of awareness of HPV in Irish society?
  o How do you think this impacted on your experience of being tested for HPV?
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5. Impact on your life

Since the HPV test was taken, have you thought about it very often? (prompt for examples)

Did the HPV result have any impact on your relationship with your partner?
   Prompt: can you tell me a little about this?

Did it have any impact on your relationship with your children?
   Prompt: can you tell me a little about this?

What about other family members? Your friends?
   Prompt: can you tell me a little about this?

Did it (continue to) affect you emotionally? In what way?

What is your current understanding of HPV?
   If changed: what led to the change in your understanding of it?

Has the experience of being tested for HPV had any impact on how you feel about going for screening?
   (prompts: Cervical Check, further HPV tests)

How about the result? Has it affected how you feel about going for screening?

6. Information needs and best practice

What information was most helpful?

Was there anything you wish had been explained to you, or explained in more detail?

When would you have liked to receive this information?

Who would be the best person to give it?

Do you think it would be useful to provide information to women getting HPV tests in any other format?
   (prompts: leaflets, websites)

Do you have any other suggestions?
   (prompt: If you were in charge of planning this service, what would you do differently regarding information, social and emotional support? Anything else?)

How do you feel now, about HPV and your test result?

Is there anything else you would like to add?
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2a Interviewee has received a negative HPV result

How did you feel when you learned your HPV test result was negative? (prompts: relief, indifference, puzzlement)
- How was the result given to you? (prompts: by phone, face to face, by letter, at the same time as smear result, has not been yet given). How did you feel about this?
- What did your result mean to you? How did it relate to your smear result, for you? (most recent and abnormal smears in past)
- Did it have any effect on your understanding of abnormal smear results?

Since the HPV test was taken, have you thought about it very often? (prompt for examples)

Have any (further) questions arisen for you since the test was carried out about HPV? What about when you got the result?
- Were you given the opportunity to talk about your HPV question with your healthcare providers? To ask them questions about it?
- How important was this?

What was your experience of the healthcare delivery in the clinic where the test was carried out?
- What impact (if any) do you feel this had on your experience of the test?
- What impact (if any) do you feel this had on your attitude to it?
- What impact (if any) do you feel this had on the questions that were raised for you about it?
- What impact (if any) do you feel this had on any concerns you may have had about the HPV test?
- What about your experience of healthcare delivery outside the clinic – how has this been?
  - Do you think it has had any impact on your experience of the test?

Is there anything else that you think might have affected your experience of getting the HPV test?
(prompts: level of experience of receiving healthcare/gynaecological healthcare; personal attitude; other significant life experiences occurring at this time such as marriage, pregnancy, bereavement...)

Did you talk about your HPV test or its result with anyone? Who?
- Was this helpful?
- In what way did you find it helpful?
- How did you feel afterwards?

If interviewee told no one:
- How did you feel about deciding not to tell anyone?
- Was there a reason for this?
- Did you tell anyone you had an abnormal smear?
  (if yes - was there a reason why you felt ok to talk about a smear and not a HPV test?)

From your own experience, how would you describe the level of awareness of HPV in Irish society?
- How do you think this impacted on your experience of being tested for HPV?

Do you think your experience of HPV testing would have differed in any way, had you had a positive HPV result? In what way?
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Did you look up HPV on the internet? Or did you research it through any other sources? How was this experience? What information was most helpful?

Was there anything you wish had been explained to you, or explained in more detail (either at the time of your test or when you got your result)?

Has the experience of getting the HPV test affected how you feel about going for screening? (prompts: Cervical Check, further HPV tests)

Do you think getting the HPV test led to any support needs for you? (prompts: to talk to someone about it, to ask questions).

How do you feel now, about HPV and your test result?

Is there anything you would like to add?