

Table 1: Results of reminder letter sent to physicians of women with abnormal results on Papanicolaou (Pap) testing*

Result	No. (and %) of patients
Letter triggered follow-up	104 (10.5)
Follow-up already booked or complete	
Follow-up Pap test done	147 (14.8)
Colposcopy or surgery done	52 (5.2)
Appointment booked	39 (3.9)
Subtotal	238 (24.0)
Follow-up booked, but appointment not kept	154 (15.5)
Management recommendation not followed	
Woman refused recommendation	24 (2.4)
Woman currently pregnant	25 (2.5)
Woman underwent second Pap test, not colposcopy	54 (5.4)
Subtotal	103 (10.4)
Woman could not be contacted	
Physician could not contact	89 (9.0)
Woman had changed health care provider	91 (9.2)
Woman no longer with health care provider	19 (1.9)
Subtotal	199 (20.1)
No reason given for noncompliance	
None given	155 (15.6)
Misclassified†	38 (3.8)
Subtotal	193 (19.5)
Total	991 (100.0)

*A total of 1500 letters were sent (for women for whom there was no record that pathologist's management recommendation had been completed), of which 991 (66.1%) were returned.

†Results were originally classified in another category and were subsequently classified as "no reason given" on later review.

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