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### **Reminders to general practitioners improve follow-up after abnormal or inadequate cervical cytology - a nationwide before and after cohort study**

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**Background & Aim:** Postponed or lost follow-up after an abnormal cervical cytology may give dysplasia time to progress. In Denmark, general practitioners (GPs) obtain the cytology and convey results to women, by which approximately 40,000 women/year are recommended follow-up. It is estimated that 18% of the women postpone follow-up, including 5% of the women with the most severe dysplasia. Postponed follow-up is associated with socio-demographic differences among women and is more common in some GP practices. This study aimed to evaluate if an electronic GP-reminder system launched in Denmark in 2012 would decrease the proportion of women without follow-up, level out sociodemographic variation and decrease the variation in follow-up proportions between GP practices.

**Method:** In a national before-after study, all cervical cytology samples with a follow-up recommendation (from 2009-2013) were identified in the Danish Pathology Data Bank. The proportion of women without follow-up 6 month after the GP-reminder was calculated for the after group and compared to the proportion of women with no follow-up 6 months after a fictional GP-reminder in the before group.

**Results:** Preliminary results indicate that GP-reminders decreased the proportion of women without follow-up, regardless of type of follow-up recommendation. The improvement was seen for all socio-demographic groups, but disparities were not levelled out. The interquartile range of proportions with no follow-up among GP practices was reduced from before to after.

**Conclusions:** An electronic reminder system alerting GPs about women with no follow-up after a dysplasia diagnosis decreased the proportion with no follow-up and the variation between practices. Still, lower social position had higher non-follow-up compared to women with higher social position.