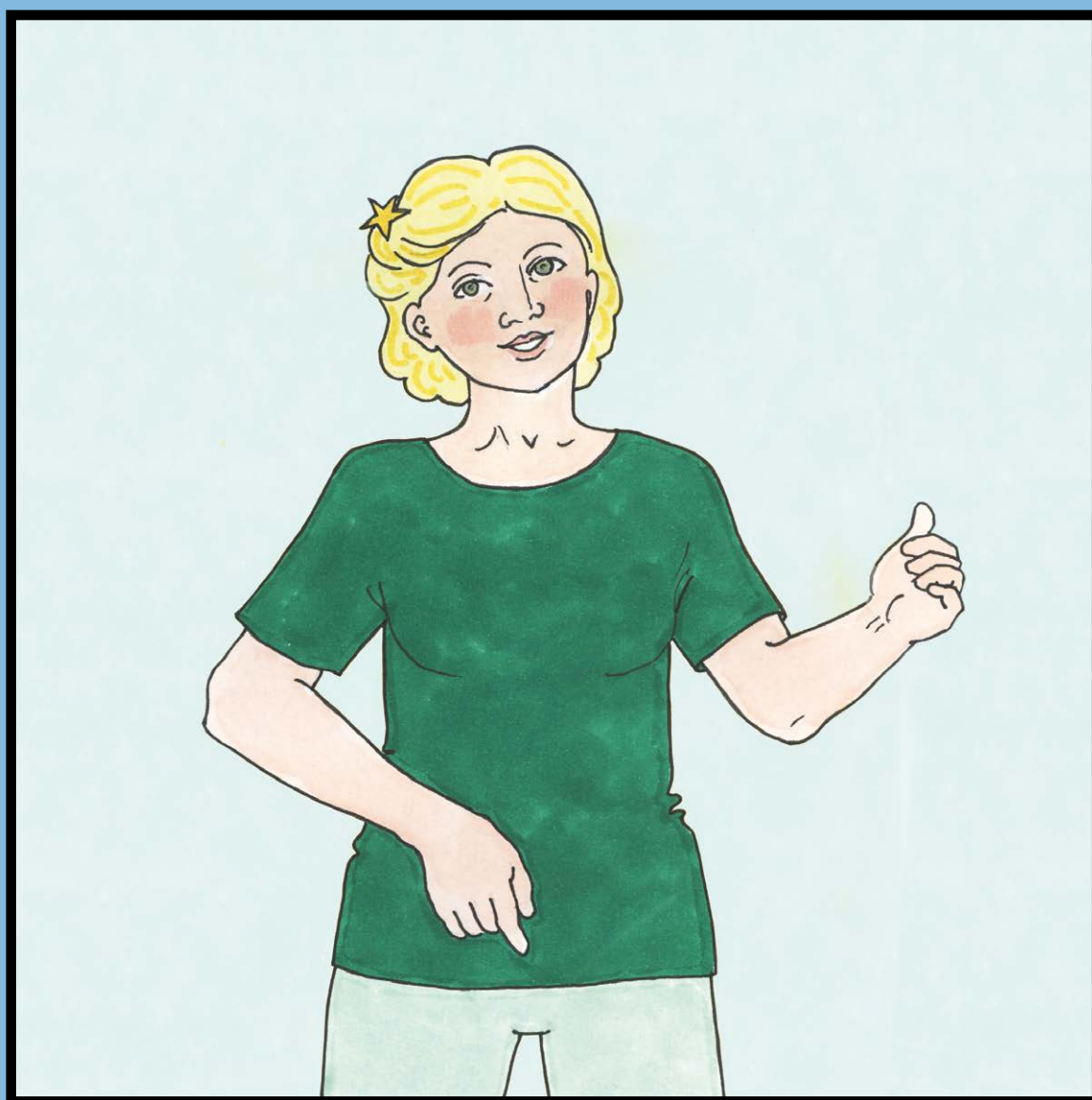


An Easy Guide to Cervical Screening

Illustrated by Beth Webb













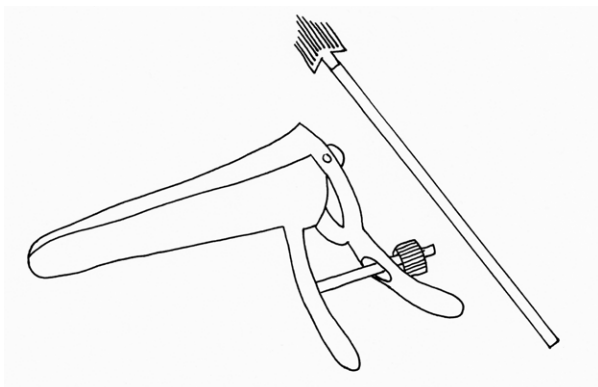






A suggested storyline

1. All women aged between 25 and 65 are invited to have cervical screening (a smear test). This leaflet will help you to share any worries you have, and to know what to expect.
2. You will be sent a letter about having a smear test. Cervical screening checks for changes down below. Some of these changes may become cervical cancer. It can be prevented if the changes are found early enough.
3. The doctor or nurse will help you decide if you need to have cervical screening.
4. You can decide if you want to have cervical screening.
5. A doctor or nurse will take the screening test. They use a speculum and a special brush like this:

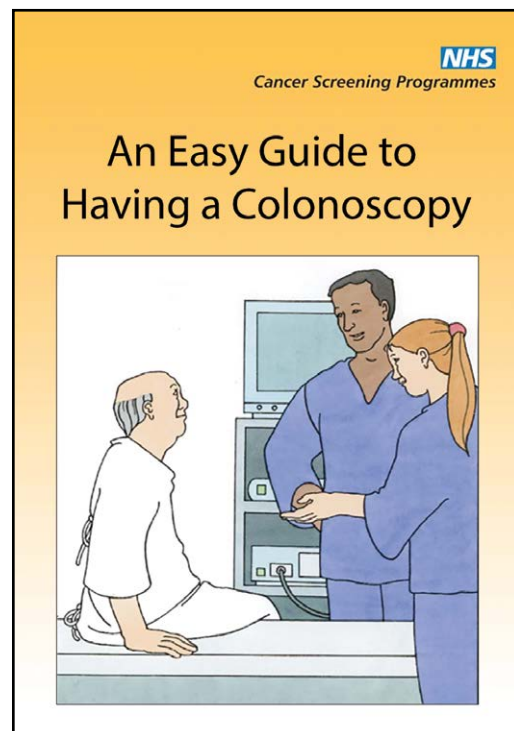
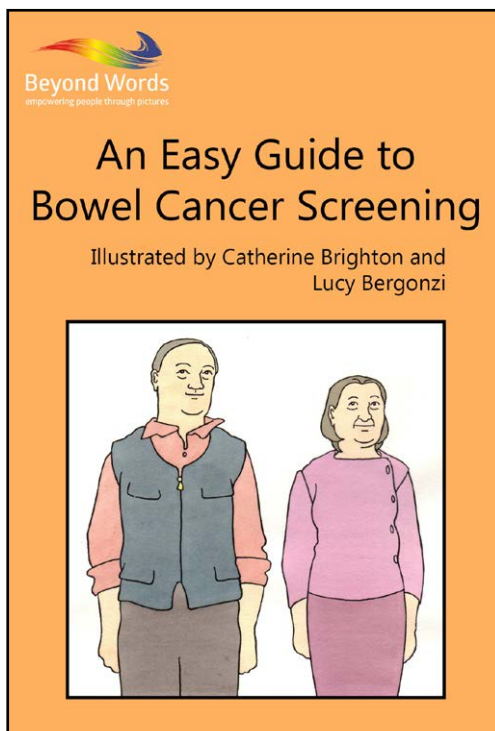
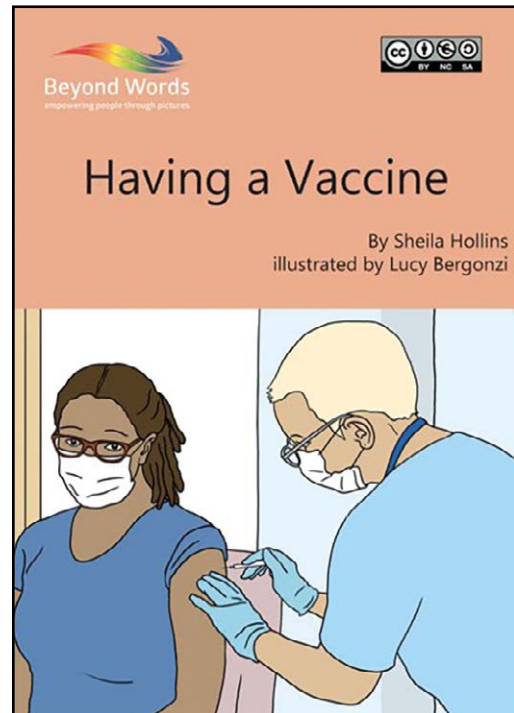
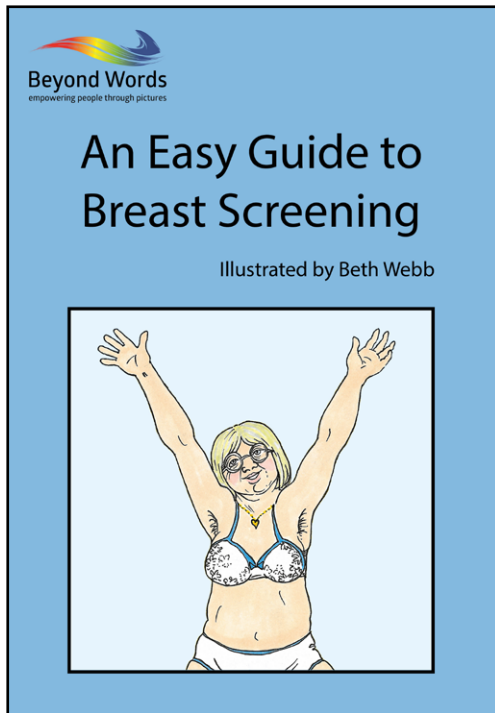


The test sample is sent away to be looked at carefully.

6. You will be sent a letter about the results of your screening test. If everything is OK with the test you will be invited for another one in a few years' time.
7. You can ask someone to tell you more about cervical screening.
8. If you are worried about anything then don't wait for an appointment, talk to your doctor or nurse.

A picture book called **[Keeping Healthy Down Below](#)** gives more information about cervical screening. The book can be ordered from the publisher, Beyond Words:

www.booksbeyondwords.co.uk



Find these and other free health resources here:

www.booksbeyondwords.co.uk/resources-dl/#health

How to read this leaflet

You can read this leaflet on your own, with another person or in a group. It is not necessary to be able to read or to speak any words at all.

You don't have to read the whole leaflet – sometimes one picture is enough.

Encourage the reader to turn the pages themselves. They can say what is happening in their own way – with words, signs, or facial expressions. Whether you are reading the leaflet with one person or with a group, encourage each person to say what they see in their own words. You will discover what each person thinks is happening, what they already know, how they feel. Their interpretation tells you about their life experience. If they don't understand what is happening in the pictures, you can use information from the provided storyline if it's helpful.

Some people will read the pictures without any problems. If a picture is more difficult, it can help to prompt with open questions, gradually going deeper into the meaning, for example:

- I wonder who that is?
- I wonder what is happening?
- What are they doing?
- I wonder how they are feeling?
- Have you felt like that?
- Have you had a smear test, like in this story?
- Do you know someone who has had a smear test?

You don't have to read the whole leaflet straight away. You can read it together more than once, or give it to the person you are reading it with, so they can read it again on their own.



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Further information about the Books Beyond Words series can be obtained