

Stepwise strategy to improve cervical cancer screening adherence (SCAN-Cervical Cancer)

Report for: *USF Espaço Saúde*

1| Rationale for the investigation

Cervical cancer is the fifth most common cause of cancer death in women (Portugal), and organized screening programs are important for its prevention and control. However, the population adherence in *Porto Ocidental* is just over 30%. The previously described interventions that intended to increase the adherence to cervical cancer screening targeted essentially hard-to-reach women and did not test low-cost or automated strategies.

2| Study description

Objective: to assess the effectiveness of a novel strategy to invite women for cervical cancer screening.

Study design: randomized controlled trial (pragmatic design, 12 centres, randomization of individuals).

Inclusion criteria:

- Women eligible for cervical cancer screening
- Age 25 to 49 years
- Registration at one of the participant primary care units (Figure 1.A and 1.B)
- Mobile phone number available at the National Health Database

Tested intervention: invitation based on automated and personalized text messages/phone calls and reminders (Figure 2).

Control: invitation through written letter (standard of care).

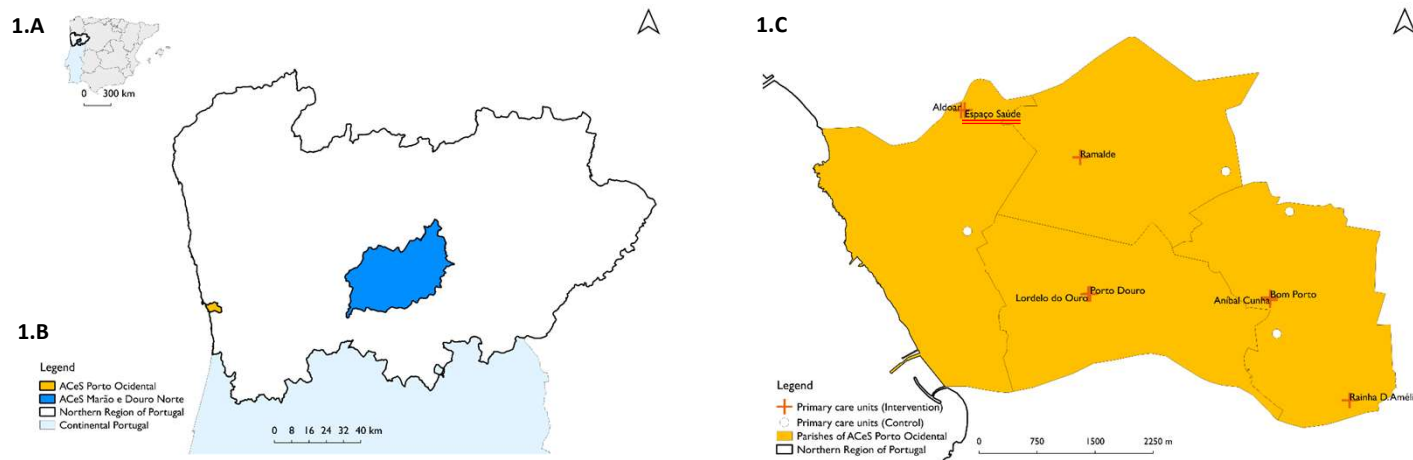


Figure 1 – Map of the participant health care areas and primary care units.

ACeS – Agrupamento de Centros de Saúde. The participant health care areas are depicted in Figure 1.A and 1.B. The enrolled primary care units of ACeS Porto Ocidental are represented in Figure 1.C. ACeS Porto Ocidental serves a urban area, while ACeS Marão e Douro Norte covers a sub-urban and rural territory.

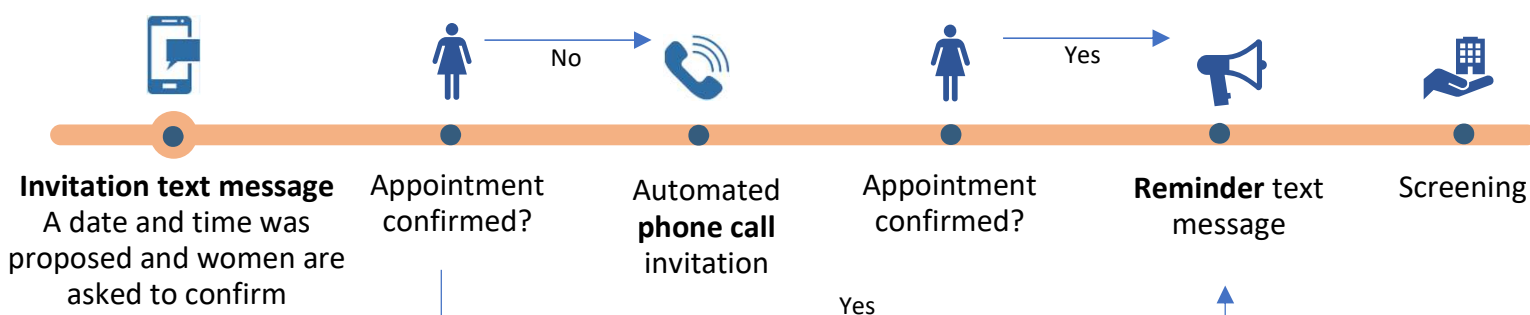


Figure 2 – Flowchart depicting the implementation of the intervention.