



Message from PHE Screening

Subject	Registered nursing associates training in cervical sample taking
Message source	NHS Cervical Screening Programme, Health Education England and NHS England / NHS Improvement Primary Care Nursing team
Message recipients	See checklist below
Importance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Normal <input type="checkbox"/> High
Message	<p>The NHS Long Term Plan sets an ambition for the proportion of cancers diagnosed at stages 1 and 2 to increase from around half to three-quarters by 2028. Measures to achieve this include maximising the number of cancers identified through screening.</p> <p>The NHS Cervical Screening Programme (CSP) is estimated to save 5,000 lives per year, yet coverage is at a 20-year low, with one in 4 eligible women not taking up their invitation.</p> <p>Many women cite access to screening services as a reason for not being able to take up their invitations. The Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust report Computer says no states that provision of appointments depends in part on the availability of trained sample takers, generally nurses.</p> <p>Enhancing the skill base of registered nursing associates (NAs), with the appropriate competency-based training in cervical screening, will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase the number of sample takers across the country • improve access to screening • support screening's aim to reduce the incidence of cervical cancer and reduce the number of women who die from it <p>Registered NAs working in primary care are eligible to train to undertake the role of cervical sample taker.</p> <h2>Governance arrangements</h2> <p>Screening providers need to ensure the following governance arrangements are in place:</p> <p>Registered NAs must meet the core clinical competencies in the Skills for Health competency framework set out in the NHS CSP sample taker training guidance.</p> <p>To undertake cervical screening, NAs must have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • completed a nursing associate qualification and be registered as a NA with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) • undertaken initial theory and practical training as required by the NHS CSP, successfully completed the course and assessed as competent

- undertaken update training and maintained competency in line with national cervical sample taker training guidance

Local governance

The registered NA role is not yet a named profession under the Treatment of Disease, Disorder or Injury (TDDI) legislation regulated by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). However, the CQC expects any provider to consider safety, quality, competency and TDDI legislation when deploying a NA. See [CQC briefing for providers](#).

When a NA has registered with the NMC, a registered professional listed under the legislation (registered nurse or GP) will need to supervise the practice of that NA. The supervisor must be present at the GP practice when the NA is carrying out the procedure. The supervisor can undertake indirect supervision of the NA when carrying out this procedure. This is a delegated activity and the NA would be expected to work within the remits of their professional code.

NHS England/Improvement, Health Education England and PHE are working together to follow a test cohort of registered NAs to undertake cervical sample taker training. This evaluation will help make sure that the new profession of registered NAs can support primary care and health services to deliver this aspect of care. Any lessons learnt from the evaluation will be incorporated into the training guidance and communicated to providers by NHS England's primary care nursing team and PHE screening.

If you have a registered NA locally who has already started cervical sample taker training please take part in the evaluation by emailing the PHE Screening helpdesk at PHE.screeninghelpdesk@nhs.net.

Action required	Any action by recipient in relation to message content (or N/A)
Contact for queries	Provide email address or other information (or N/A)
Message ref. number (IEPP to complete)	

Distribution checklist: message to go to all checked groups below.

Note: unless otherwise specified, SQAS regional teams distribute messages.

IEPP to distribute to:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PHE Screening all staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Bowel screening hub managers |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PHE screening helpdesk | <input type="checkbox"/> Bowel screening hub directors |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Lead midwives for education |

Sender defined group (tick this box, describe group below, and send contact list with this form)

Description of the group:

ANNB – Newborn Hearing Screening Programme to distribute to:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NHSP Local Managers | <input type="checkbox"/> NHSP Screeners |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NHSP Team Leaders | <input type="checkbox"/> NHSP Senior Screeners |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NHSP Audiologists | <input type="checkbox"/> NHSP Learning Mentors |

Regional SQAS to distribute (using Bcc) to:

Note: also Bcc message to relevant programme QA teams

SQAS

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant heads and regional heads of QA | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Screening and immunisation leads |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Screening and immunisation managers |

Abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clinical directors | <input type="checkbox"/> Programme managers |
|---|---|

Diabetic eye screening (DES)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Programme managers | <input type="checkbox"/> Clinical leads |
|---|---|

ANNB- Antenatal & newborn

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heads of midwifery | <input type="checkbox"/> Child health record departments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Screening co-ordinators | |

ANNB - Fetal anomaly screening (FASP)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> FASP screening laboratories | <input type="checkbox"/> FASP genomics laboratories |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Screening support sonographers | |

ANNB - Infectious diseases in pregnancy (IDPS)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> IDPS screening laboratories (microbiology, virology) | <input type="checkbox"/> Specialist nurses/midwives |
| <input type="checkbox"/> IDPS reference laboratories | <input type="checkbox"/> Hepatologists |

ANNB - Newborn screening (NBS)

- NBS screening laboratories

ANNB - Newborn & infant physical examination (NIPE)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provider NIPE programme leads | <input type="checkbox"/> Provider NIPE Clinical Leads |
|--|---|

ANNB - Sickle cell & thalassemia (SCT)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SCT screening laboratories | <input type="checkbox"/> Sickle cell and thalassemia specialist haemoglobinopathy centres (nursing) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SCT DNA laboratories | <input type="checkbox"/> Sickle cell and thalassemia specialist haemoglobinopathy centres (medical) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Haemoglobinopathy nurses/counsellors PND laboratories | |

Bowel cancer screening

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Programme managers | <input type="checkbox"/> Lead radiology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clinical directors | <input type="checkbox"/> Lead pathology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lead specialist screening practitioners | |

Breast screening

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Programme managers | <input type="checkbox"/> Screening directors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Breast care nurses | <input type="checkbox"/> Radiographers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Breast surgeons | <input type="checkbox"/> Superintendent radiographers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical directors | <input type="checkbox"/> Radiologists |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office managers | <input type="checkbox"/> Breast consultant practitioners |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PACS managers | <input type="checkbox"/> Breast physicians/clinicians |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pathologists | <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced practitioner image readers |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical physics providers |

Cervical screening

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lead cytopathologists | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cervical screening provider leads |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lead histopathologists | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cytology lab managers |

- Colposcopy coordinators
- Lead colposcopists
- Lead colposcopy nurses

- Primary Care Services England screening managers

Version: June 2019