**Message from PHE Screening**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Registered nursing associates training in cervical sample taking</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Message source</td>
<td>NHS Cervical Screening Programme, Health Education England and NHS England / NHS Improvement Primary Care Nursing team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Message recipients</td>
<td>See checklist below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Importance</td>
<td>☒ Normal  ☐ High</td>
</tr>
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</table>
| Message | The [NHS Long Term Plan](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-long-term-plan-2020-2030) 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.  

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.  

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](https://www.jo.csv/what-we-do/cervical-cancer-strategy) states that provision of appointments depends in part on the availability of trained sample takers, generally nurses.  

Enhancing the skill base of registered nursing associates (NAs), with the appropriate competency-based training in cervical screening, will:  
- 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  

Registered NAs working in primary care are eligible to train to undertake the role of cervical sample taker.  

**Governance arrangements**  

Screening providers need to ensure the following governance arrangements are in place:  

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](https://www.hee.nhs.uk/guidance-training).  

To undertake cervical screening, NAs must have:  
- 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
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action required</th>
<th>Any action by recipient in relation to message content (or N/A)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact for queries</td>
<td>Provide email address or other information (or N/A)</td>
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<td>Message ref. number</td>
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Distribution checklist: message to go to all checked groups below.

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

☐ IEPP to distribute to:

☐ PHE Screening all staff
☒ PHE screening helpdesk
☐ Bowel screening hub managers
☐ Bowel screening hub directors
☐ 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:

☐ NHSP Local Managers
☐ NHSP Team Leaders
☐ NHSP Audiologists
☐ NHSP Screeners
☐ NHSP Senior Screeners
☐ NHSP Learning Mentors
**Regional SQAS to distribute (using Bcc) to:**
Note: also Bcc message to relevant programme QA teams

### SQAS
- Relevant heads and regional heads of QA
- Screening and immunisation leads
- Screening and immunisation managers

### Abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA)
- Clinical directors
- Programme managers

### Diabetic eye screening (DES)
- Programme managers
- Clinical leads

### ANNB - Antenatal & newborn
- Heads of midwifery
- Screening co-ordinators
- Child health record departments

### ANNB - Fetal anomaly screening (FASP)
- FASP screening laboratories
- Screening support sonographers
- FASP genomics laboratories

### ANNB - Infectious diseases in pregnancy (IDPS)
- IDPS screening laboratories (microbiology, virology)
- IDPS reference laboratories
- Specialist nurses/midwives
- Hepatologists

### ANNB - Newborn screening (NBS)
- NBS screening laboratories

### ANNB - Newborn & infant physical examination (NIPE)
- Provider NIPE programme leads
- Provider NIPE Clinical Leads

### ANNB - Sickle cell & thalassemia (SCT)
- SCT screening laboratories
- SCT DNA laboratories
- Haemoglobinopathy nurses/counsellors PND laboratories
- Sickle cell and thalassemia specialist haemoglobinopathy centres (nursing)
- Sickle cell and thalassemia specialist haemoglobinopathy centres (medical)

### Bowel cancer screening
- Programme managers
- Clinical directors
- Lead specialist screening practitioners
- Lead radiology
- Lead pathology

### Breast screening
- Programme managers
- Breast care nurses
- Breast surgeons
- Medical directors
- Office managers
- PACS managers
- Pathologists
- Screening directors
- Radiographers
- Superintendent radiographers
- Radiologists
- Breast consultant practitioners
- Breast physicians/clinicians
- Advanced practitioner image readers
- Medical physics providers

### Cervical screening
- Lead cytopathologists
- Lead histopathologists
- Cervical screening provider leads
- Cytology lab managers
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colposcopy coordinators</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lead colposcopists</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lead colposcopy nurses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Primary Care Services England</td>
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<tr>
<td>screening managers</td>
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