

CERVICAL SKILLS TRAINING for Registered Health Care Professionals

Core Training Information Sheet

Aim

To provide registered health care professionals with the knowledge and skills required to take a quality cervical sample and offer information and support in the event of an abnormal result.

Outcomes as per NHS Education Scotland (2021) recommendations. Following successful course completion, participants will be able to:

- Apply knowledge of basic anatomy and physiology to recognise a healthy cervix
- Demonstrate knowledge of the incidence, pathophysiology and treatment of cervical cancer
- Understand the principles and criteria for screening and apply them to cervical screening, showing knowledge of the Scottish cervical call recall system (SCCRS)
- Demonstrate awareness of primary HPV testing, clear understanding of results and offer appropriate responses in relation to cervical cell changes, colposcopy pathways and treatment options
- Understand barriers and enablers to participating in cervical screening. Ensuring the accessibility needs of the patient – such as physical needs (e.g. hoist), easy read, interpreter
- Understand the principles of taking correct cervical samples and ensuring correct preparation of the cervical samples which are dispatched safely to the laboratory for analysis
- Recognise common vulval, vaginal and cervical conditions
- Carry out person centred consultations
- Carry out supportive conversations for any previous negative experiences
- Carry out trauma informed practice
- Initiate effective health education based on the health beliefs of the person

Course requirements

To complete this course you must:

- Have a practice assessor
- SCCRS: login and password ([SCCRs application form](#))
- Complete pre reading/elearning approx (4 hours to complete)
 - [Shared decision making](#) (approx. 45 minutes to complete)
 - [One out of Four](#) (approx 1 hour to complete)
 - [Safe Communication in Health Care Practice](#)
 - [Health Scotland Cervical Screening](#)
 - [Cervix - You may want to save this on your computer 'Favourites'](#)
 - [BMJ Best Practice Cervical Cancer](#)
- Attend 1 day MS teams learning session
- Attend 1 session at colposcopy approx (4 hours to complete)
- Complete of 10 cervical screening samples
- Complete of Quality Improvement project within 26 weeks
- Complete of cervical skills workbook within 26 weeks

Practice Assessor Information

Who can be a practice Assessor?

Any registered professional who is up to date with specific learning and development and who is currently carrying out specific clinical practice (smear samples).

For further information see [NES Standards](#)

What role do I have in supporting the student?

There are various elements that the assessor needs to facilitate for the student to achieve completion of this course:

1. Facilitate the opportunity for the trainee to observe at least two full person centred cervical smear consultations. A discussion should take place following these consultation, including the emotions it evoked, the trainee should record discussion in workbook.

➤ Elements of the consultations may include:

- Opportunistic sexual health screen
- Contraception
- Menstrual pattern
- Irregular bleeding, postcoital bleeding, lower abdominal pain
- Pre conception
- Process of taking sample

2. Demonstrate the process of taking a [cervical screening sample](#)

3. Facilitate five supervised person-centred, cervical screening consultations.

4. Assess competency, through observation and discussion. If the individual is deemed competent, they can then progress to carrying out 5 indirect person-centred cervical screening consultations. To support your assessment you should facilitate discussion and reflection on the full consultation, including:

- Anatomy and physiology,
- Passing the speculum,
- location of cervix and transformation zone,
- Satisfactory sample taking and handling, including SCCRs

5. Assessor should sign all relevant parts of assessor's workbook. Other assessors may sign smear samples. But assigned assessor, should sign that the trainee has completed all relevant elements of the workbook. Including that the student has attended colposcopy.