

National Guidance has been provided to clarify requirements for cervical screening initial and update training. This highlights accountability and mandatory training requirements and states: Initial sample taker training:

- Evidence of completing initial training e.g. certification from higher education institution or NES

Update training:

- Providing confirmation of having participated in update training within the past 3 years
- If they haven't taken part in update training in the past 3 years, providing assurance to their employer that they will participate in update training within the next 3 months (which could be followed-up later in the year)

You will be aware that NES have launched free sample taker training for GPNs and an update training module, all available online. It is hoped that the provision of these online resources will help practices at this busy time. I have attached the flyers that were sent out a few months ago for quick access to links. Any problems accessing please contact [cpdconnect@nes.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:cpdconnect@nes.scot.nhs.uk)

A local Ayrshire and Arran Cervical Screening **update** training module has also been created and is available in the MAST specific area on LearnPro.

The Ayrshire and Arran Cervical Screening Guideline has been updated to reflect recent changes to training pathways and will be available on AthenA.

The investigation process has highlighted the importance of clinical record keeping evidencing the holistic care provided during the cervical screening consultation.

Suggestions to include as clinical documentation are:

- Reason for attendance – routine or first screen / defaulter / repeat test
- Procedure explained / understood / consent obtained
- Chaperone offered / accepted / declined / name of chaperone
- Symptoms or absence of symptoms, any additional samples taken
- Problems encountered – position of cervix, speculum size, pain
- Appearance of cervix – healthy / ectropion / contact bleeding / vaginal atrophy
- Advice given / how will receive results and timeframes for receiving

Wider learning around sexual health and menopause care is encouraged. A Sexual Health e-Learning module has recently been launched on Turas.

March 2023