

Sample taking update

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We will cover:

- Update on training
- Transgender op in
- Avoiding rejected samples
- Self sampling kits
- Chaperoning

The course

- RCN accredited
- Runs throughout Devon, Cornwall and Somerset
- 8 Courses in 2024 with 104 trainees attending
- Based on gov guidance **NHS Cervical screening: cervical sample taker training**

www.gov.uk/government/publications/cervical-screening-cervical-sample-taker-training

- Registered paramedics working in primary care have now been added to potentially train
- All resources available on request

Assessor

- We now have assessors in Devon, Cornwall and Somerset
- Great opportunity to use your sample taker skills when assessing
- Payment has increased from 1st April 2025 £90 per assessment
- How do you become an assessor?
- You must have at least 12 months of continuous experience as a practicing sample taker.
- You need to have taken at least 50 cervical samples following the completion of your initial training.

Assessors must undertake a formal cervical screening update at least every 3 years to maintain their competency.

FAQ:

- My Mentor is on extended absence – what do I do?
- How do I get my PIN after I've received my completion certificate?
- How do I contact my Assessor?
- I'm returning to sample taking after taking a break but I'm still registered and have a sample taker PIN. What do I do?

Transgender opt-in is now available on CSAS website. The bottom link is new

Cease, Defer, Reinstate and Gender Opt-In Form Templates

Required document templates for use with Cease, Defer, Reinstate or Gender Opt-In requests. These documents are locked and allow specific fields only to be edited to ensure they remain standardised across the service. Cease and Defer forms should be used where the request is being made outside of the PNL process.

- [Ceasing from the Cervical Screening Programme](#)
- [Ceasing from the Cervical Screening Programme – Mental Capacity Act \(MCA\)](#)
- [Informed Consent for withdrawal from the Cervical Screening Programme](#) – This form should be completed once the [helping you decide](#) leaflet has been read by the patient and they still wish to withdraw from the programme.
- [Reinstate into Cervical Screening Programme](#)
- [Cervical Screening Programme Deferral](#)
- [Gender Opt-In](#)

Avoiding Sample rejections

- There has been an increase in rejected samples because the sample vials and the accompanying request forms don't match. To avoid this happening, please double-check that the patient details on the form and the vial match for every sample taken, and that forms are not pre-printed from CSMS.
- Vials must be labelled with three patient identifiers. Please can sample takers make sure they place patient labels directly flat onto the vials. Please do not fold patient stickers in half and place them on the pot – the lab cannot put these in the analysers, and labels end up ripped and important patient identifiable data is lost.
- Please do not to stick patient labels over the vial expiry date as the laboratory need to be able to see this.

Self Sampling Kits

- Self-sampling HPV testing is not part of the cervical screening pathway. Whilst test kits can be purchased in pharmacies or online to test for HPV infection the accuracy of these tests are yet to be confirmed and these are NOT accepted as part of the screening pathway.
- They do not replace the cervical screen and the results are not included in the screening record.

If a patient comes to you with a HPV positive test from one of these kits the following points may be discussed:

- Since 2019 HPV has been tested for all cervical screening samples taken.
- Unlike a self-sampling test, cervical screening test assesses both the health of the cells taken in the sample as well as the presence or absence of HPV infection and it is these two elements combined that determine the outcome
- HPV can stay in an individual's body for a number of years
- HPV can stay at very low or undetectable levels and not cause any problems
- HPV is a very common infection that most people will get in their life.
- Most HPV infections do not cause any problems.
- Detailed information on HPV for patients can be found on the NHS.uk website - Human papillomavirus (HPV) - NHS

Outcome for patients presenting with HPV positive result from a self-sampling test kit

	• Patient is not symptomatic	Patient is Symptomatic
• Due for Cervical Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have a discussion about HPV• Offer a screen in the practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refer patient to gynae based on the symptoms presented
• Not Due for Cervical Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have a discussion about HPV• Encourage patient to attend next cervical screen appointment when due	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refer patient to gynae based on the symptoms presented

Chaperoning

1. Do we always offer a Chaperone?
2. What is a chaperone and who is it for
3. Is one available?

- Any questions email shs.cervicalsamplers1@nhs.net