



National Health Service in Scotland
Management Executive

St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Dear Colleague

QUALITY IN THE NHS CERVICAL SCREENING
PROGRAMME
TRAINING VIDEO AND BOOKLET

Summary

1. This letter is to inform Health Boards that guidance on the current method of taking cervical smears has been produced by the British Society for Clinical Cytology (BSCC) and is available in the form of a video and booklet entitled: "Taking Cervical Smears".
2. Bulk supplies of the booklet and a limited supply of videos are being sent to Health Boards under separate cover.
3. The NHS, and in particular primary care, has taken a number of actions to bring women into the cervical screening programme. The employment of practice nurses in general practice has increased significantly in recent years and led to the expansion of the nurse's role in a wide range of services for patients, including cervical screening.
4. The need for managers, doctors and those in the nursing professions to ensure training and competence is paramount, and particular attention is needed when tasks are delegated.
5. The BSCC video and booklet should be helpful to those addressing training issues and for all health professionals engaged in cervical screening.

Action

6. Health Boards are asked to make arrangements for the distribution of the booklets to General Practitioners, practice nurses and other appropriate health professionals and to make the video available on request.
7. Copies of the video and leaflet have also been sent to the institutions providing nurse education.

Yours sincerely

Patricia Russell
PATRICIA RUSSELL
Acting Head of Health Gain

B1300320.084

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Addressees

For action:
General Managers,
Health Boards

For information:
Chief Area Nursing
Officers

General Manager,
Common Services Agency

General Manager,
State Hospital

General Manager,
Health Education Board
for Scotland

Chief Executives,
NHS Trusts

Directors of Nursing
Services

Directors of Nurse
Education

Enquiries to:

Mrs A Emlick
ME5
Room 52
St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH EH1 3DE
Tel: 031-244 2328
Fax: 031-244 2326

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