National Health Service in Scotland
Management Executive

Dear Colleague

GUIDANCE ON PURCHASING FOR CERVICAL SCREENING
REPORT OF WORKING PARTY ON INTERNAL QUALITY CONTROL FOR CERVICAL CYTOPATHOLOGY LABORATORIES

Summary

1. This MEL commends to the Service 2 reports stemming from the Inverclyde Inquiry Report:

- Guidance to Health Boards on Purchasing for Cervical Screening;

- the Report of the Working Party on Internal Quality Control for Cervical Cytopathology Laboratories.

Adherence to their recommendations will result in significant improvements in the quality and reliability of the cervical screening service.

Action

2. Board General Managers, in conjunction with Trust Chief Executives and GPs, are asked to ensure that their Board's purchasing strategy reflects national guidance and current professional good practice. The attached Guidance on Purchasing should be distributed widely including to GPs.

3. Trust Chief Executives responsible for laboratories providing a cervical cytopathology and/or a histopathology service should ensure that action is taken to implement the recommendations in the Report of the Working Party on Internal Quality Control for Cervical Cytopathology Laboratories. Health Boards will wish to assure themselves that providers implement the Report's recommendations.

Yours sincerely

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