



THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

Department of Health

NHS
MEL(1996)29

NHS Management Executive
St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
18 March 1996

Dear Colleague

CERVICAL SCREENING PROGRAMME

Summary

This letter draws your attention to 3 documents which set out quality standards for all aspects of the Cervical Screening Programme, ranging from the proportion of eligible women who should be screened to the number of women an individual colposcopist should see every year, as well as issues of internal quality control for cervical screening laboratories.

The documents, which have been produced by the NHS Cervical Screening Programme, are:

Quality Assurance Guidelines for the Cervical Screening Programme;

Standards and Quality in Colposcopy; and

Achievable Standards, Benchmarks for Reporting and Criteria for Evaluating Cervical Cytopathology.

Action

These guidelines, with their new measurable standards, will help all those involved with the programme, and in particular purchasers, to assure the quality of the programme in the future. You are requested to draw this guidance to the attention of those concerned with delivering the service.

Other Information

More detailed guidance on internal quality control in cervical cytopathology laboratories is contained in the Report of the Working Party issued under cover of MEL(1995)64 in October 1995.

Yours sincerely

DAVID R STEEL
Head, Health Gain Division

Addressees

For action:
General Managers,
Health Boards

Chief Executives,
NHS Trusts

SCSP Lead Consultants

For information:
General Manager,
Common Services Agency

General Manager,
State Hospitals Board for Scotland

General Manager,
Health Education Board for Scotland

Executive Director, SCPMDE

Scottish Association of GP
Fundholders

Enquiries to:

Mrs J I R Edwards
Health Gain Division
SODoH
Room 43, St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH EH1 3DG
Tel: 0131-244 2128
Fax: 0131-244 2372

Additional Copies from:

Mrs Avril Emlick
Health Gain Division
SODoH
Room 52, St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH EH1 3DG
Tel: 0131-244 2328
Fax: 0131-244 2372
