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Call/recall in cervical screening

One of the fundamental elements of any population screening programme is to ensure that all eligible individuals receive timely invites to participate and that they are recalled appropriately.

When the cervical screening programme was established in 1988, a regional call/recall system was introduced, but GP practices were, at that time, given the option to opt out of this regional system and operate their own local call/recall process. Over the years, this resulted in significant variations in practice, with women being called at different intervals and, in some cases, in different age ranges.

The regional IT system was updated in 2006, and since then there have been attempts to standardize practice with clear regional policy that women aged 25-49 should be invited every 3 years and those aged 50-64 every 5 years.

While more and more practices are now opting into the regional call/recall system, there are still those that operate their own stand-alone system, or indeed operate their own system for their patients alongside the regional one.

There are currently 91 individual GPs in Northern Ireland who are recorded on the system as 'opted out'. We now have duplication of effort, women being over-invited, perhaps some women not being invited at all, and many who do not receive an appropriate information leaflet with their invite to enable them to make an informed choice on participation. A recent Serious Adverse Incident in call/recall in a primary care practice has highlighted the importance of standardizing this aspect of the screening programme and demonstrated the value of the regional call/recall system as an essential failsafe process.

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BREAST SCREENING PROGRAMME VISIT TO VERE FOSTER MEDICAL GROUP

Representatives from the Quality Assurance Reference Centre and the Office Manager of the Breast Screening Unit (Linenhall St, Belfast) recently visited the Vere Foster Medical Group, (Sandy Row and Falls Road Practices) to talk to practice staff about the Breast Screening Programme. The talk was very interactive with practice staff suggesting ways in which interventions at practice level might help to improve uptake eg alerts on the electronic screen that eligible women from the practice are being called for screening, was one of many suggestions.

If you would like someone to come and talk to practice staff about the breast screening programme please contact either your local breast screening unit or the Quality Assurance Reference Centre at screening.breast@hscni.net.



Dr Adrian Mairs, Quality Assurance Director, NI Breast Screening Programme

...--... TEXT REMINDER SERVICE BREAST SCREENING ...--...



A text reminder service to remind women about their breast screening appointments has been introduced for women within the following Trust areas:
Northern HSC Trust, Belfast HSC Trust and South Eastern HSC Trust. The Western and Southern HSC Trusts hope to have this up and running in the near future



Implementation of digital mammography.



Breast imaging is performed using a range of modalities including mammography, ultrasound and MRI. Mammography continues to be the standard screening tool for breast cancer.

The PHA is working closely with Trusts across Northern Ireland to replace the current analogue mammography equipment with digital equipment and integration with the NIPACS system. Each Trust should be operating fully digitally by September 2014. In addition to the four regional breast screening units there will be a fleet of seven new mobile trailers. This increases the mobile fleet by 2, which will enhance the service in rural communities.

The many advantages of Digital Mammography are numerous, and include:

- Removal of the physical and time barriers associated with traditional film-based image retrieval, distribution, and display. Images can be assessed and read at remote sites and there is instant access to previous digital images for comparison.
- The images are available immediately and can be manipulated electronically
- The combination of the new equipment, trailers and refurbishment will provide a better environment for the clients and the staff.
- DM has better sensitivity for younger women and will facilitate future development in screening and assessment, such as the use of tomosynthesis, stereotaxis and computer aided detection.

Breast screening leaflets updated

All GP Practices in Northern Ireland should have received the new range of Breast Screening Leaflets. These were devised in light of the findings of an Independent Breast Screening Review (the Marmot review) which concluded that the UK breast screening programmes confer significant benefit, by reducing breast cancer mortality, and should continue. However, it also recommended that women should be given clear and balanced information about the benefits and harms of breast screening. We have therefore taken this opportunity to update and revise each of our leaflets. One of the revised leaflets **Breast Screening – Helping You Decide** replaces the old leaflet **Breast Screening Can Save Lives**. This is sent to women with their invitation to attend breast screening. The leaflet is based on the leaflet produced in England, which was developed by Informed Choice about Cancer Screening – an independent team of information experts at King's Health Partners, with advice and writing support from Cancer Research UK. The information in the leaflet uses recommendations from a citizens' jury of 25 women about how to present the possible benefits and risks of breast screening. The leaflet has been adapted for use in Northern Ireland by the Public Health Agency. Cont. over.....

Northern Ireland breast screening

Helping you decide



Breast Screening

INCREASING BREAST SCREENING UPTAKE IN THE WESTERN TRUST

Two information sessions on breast cancer awareness and the screening programme took place for women in the local community in Northside Shopping Centre and Quayside Shopping Centre 'Derry during Breast Cancer Awareness month. Sandra Semple from the Health Improvement Department and Annmarie Wilson from the Breast Screening Unit worked in partnership to encourage women to be breast aware and to attend for a mammogram when called between the age of 50 and 70. Two hundred and fifteen women were targeted through the 2 events. The events took place ahead of eligible women being called for screening in GP practices in the area. Once screening had taken place uptake was compared with the previous screening round and was shown to have increased by 5% in each GP practice called.

If you would like someone to come and talk to practice staff about the breast screening programme please contact your local breast screening Unit or the Quality Assurance Reference Centre at screening.breast@hscni.net



Breast Screening leaflets Updated Cont.

Breast screening
For women with a higher risk of breast cancer



We have added a new leaflet to our range – **Breast Screening for Women with a Higher Risk of Breast Cancer.** This will be sent to eligible women within the higher risk surveillance screening programme when they are sent their invite to attend for screening.

For more information on the Higher Risk Screening Programme visit the NI Cancer Screening Programmes website <http://www.cancerscreening.hscni.net/2081.htm>

In your delivery of leaflets, you will also have received a **Guide for Health Professionals.** This replaces the old A4 booklet entitled **The Northern Ireland Breast Screening Programme.** This is sent to GP practices in an

information pack which is distributed approximately six weeks before eligible women registered with the practice are invited for screening. In addition to the Guide for Health Professionals the pack includes statistics on uptake rate, DNA rate and cancer diagnosis. This information is to enable primary care teams to support women to make an informed choice about breast screening. We have extended our FAQ section of the Northern Ireland Cancer Screening website and would urge you to use this for your own information and to direct women who require more information <http://www.cancerscreening.hscni.net/2081.htm>

The Northern Ireland breast screening programme



Guide for health professionals

Breast Screening



We are also using the Public Health Agency twitter account to inform women about where breast screening is taking place and to direct them to the FAQ section of the Northern Ireland Cancer Screening website for more information.

Can you please destroy all your old Breast Screening Leaflets and if you require any more please see contact us.

Dr Adrian Mairs, Quality Assurance Director, NI Breast Screening Programme

OUT OF DATE CYTOLOGY VIALS

The labs have reported that, out of date vials are being used occasionally for smear samples. All laboratories are required to check the expiry date on vials before processing. If the vial is past the expiry date, then the sample will not be processed, and a repeat specimen will be requested. Smear takers should check the expiry date of all vials and adopt a mechanism for monitoring stock rotation.

Accessing cervical screening leaflets.

Practices are being encouraged to contact their Trust information resource centres (HUB) to obtain cervical leaflets designed to be given to patients at various points along the screening pathway. It should not be necessary for practices to photocopy leaflets as all Trusts have been supplied with sufficient stocks of the leaflets. The leaflet "Its best to take the test" must be sent to all women being invited for a smear test. The Leaflet "Your results explained" should be provided when the test has been completed, or when the result letter is being sent from the practice

HUBS if you require cervical or breast screening leaflets for your practice. Please contact either

Belfast and SE Trusts contact hazel.fisher@belfasttrust.hscni.net 02895-046-627

Northern Trust contact andrea.graham@northerntrust.hscni.net 02825-635-575

Southern Trust contact alexandra.irwin@southerntrust.hscni.net 02837-412-889

Western Trust contact patricia.concannon@westerntrust.hscni.net 02871865-127

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What the regional call/recall system does

The regional system is a module on the Family Practitioner System (FPS) database and is operated by the Business Services Organisation (BSO). The system is electronically linked to LabCentre, so women are identified for screening based on their age and last cervical cytology result. 'Opted in' GPs will receive a Prior Notification List (PNL) which includes all the women who are due for screening in 2 months' time. The practice validates this list and feeds back to the screening office on any demographic changes or clinical issues. Invite letters are then issued directly to the patients who are on routine recall, addressed from the GP. These include a copy of the leaflet '*It's best to take the test*'. A reminder letter is issued if no cytology sample is received by the laboratory within 12 weeks. After a further 12 weeks, a Final Non-Responder card will be issued to the GP, the screening episode is closed and the woman will be reset to be called again in 3/5 years' time. To fulfill QOF requirements, practices only need to act on the Final Non-Responder cards to make one further contact with the patient.

GPs who are 'opted-out' of the BSO system do not receive PNLs or Final Non-Responder Cards and their patients do not receive invitations or reminder letters from the system.

Currently, patients requiring an early repeat test due to a previous inadequate or abnormal result will also appear on the PNL, but it is the responsibility of the GP to directly call these women. Both 'opted in' and 'opted out' GPs will receive a follow-up reminder at 12 weeks after the test due date if no sample has been received.

QARC and BSO are developing a brief guide for practices on call/recall processes and the roles and responsibilities. This will be shared with all practices in due course. In the meantime, practices are encouraged to consider how they make use of the regional call/recall system. It is free to participating practices, avoids postal charges and staff time in the practice, uses the same primary care demographic database, has a direct link to cytology results and ensures that all eligible women are invited for screening within DHSSPS policy and national standards. If you would like to discuss the operation of the regional call/recall system and the implications for your practice, please contact Maura Wilson, Screening Manager, BSO on 028 9053 5552 or at Maura.wilson@hscni.net

Dr Tracy Owen, Quality Assurance Director, NI Cervical Screening Programme

NEW QA APPOINTMENTS TO CANCER SCREENING PROGRAMMES:

Welcome to the following,

(Cervical Screening) Dr Gary Dorman Regional QA Lead for Colposcopy
 (Breast Screening) Dr Eddie Gibson Regional QA Lead for Radiology
 (Breast Screening) Dorothy McFaul Regional QA Lead for Radiography
 (Breast Screening) Georgie O’Kane Regional QA Lead for Administration and Clerical.

QARC wishes to thank all previous appointees for their hard work and dedication to the position.

SCHEDULED QA VISITS 2014			 STATISTICS FOR 2012-2013																				
	DATE	TRUST	NI Cervical Screening Programme: Coverage by age group (25-64), and HSC Trusts 2012/13																				
<i>CERVICAL</i>	<i>8 MAY 2014</i>	<i>SOUTHERN TRUST</i>	HSC Trust	ELIGIBLE POPULATION	COVERAGE %																		
<i>BREAST</i>	<i>18 NOV 2014</i>	<i>NORTHERN TRUST</i>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>NORTHERN IRELAND</td> <td>479,483</td> <td>78%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BELFAST</td> <td>111,882</td> <td>72.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>South East</td> <td>78,226</td> <td>79.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Northern</td> <td>111,089</td> <td>80.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Southern</td> <td>97,102</td> <td>79.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Western</td> <td>81,184</td> <td>78.6%</td> </tr> </table>			NORTHERN IRELAND	479,483	78%	BELFAST	111,882	72.9%	South East	78,226	79.7%	Northern	111,089	80.7%	Southern	97,102	79.1%	Western	81,184	78.6%
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<i>BOWEL</i>	<i>TBC</i>	<i>BELFAST TRUST</i>	KC53 Part A2 2012-13																				

Breast screening statistics for quarter 1, April - June 2013

Uptake% 50-70	Screen to assessment % within 3 weeks	Round Length % within 36 months, 50-70	Screen to Routine Recall: Normal report letters % issued within 2 weeks
Eastern 76.0%	Eastern 95.0%	Eastern 99.0%	Eastern 99.0%
Northern 83.0%	Northern 98.0%	Northern 99.0%	Northern 98.0%
Southern 77.0%	Southern 74.0%	Southern 95.0%	Southern 72.0%
Western 76.0%	Western 70.0%	Western 92.0%	Western 81.0%
			
Region 78.0%	Region 88.0%	Region 97.0%	Region 89.0%
Minimum Standard 70%	Minimum Standard 90%	Minimum Standard within 36 months 90%	Minimum Standard Within two weeks >90%
Target 80%	Target 100%	Target 100%	Target 100%

 Bowel Screening uptake rates, Quarter 1, April-June 2013	Belfast	Northern	South Eastern	Southern	Western	Northern Ireland
	45.6%	56.7%	60.4%	47.2%	53.7%	53.2%

HPV result	Cytology result		
	Negative	Borderline	Mild dyskaryosis
Negative	76.2%	60.3%	19.9%
Positive	23.8%	39.7%	80.0%

HPV testing in cervical screening – an update

In January 2013, high risk HPV triage and test of cure was introduced into the cervical screening pathway in Northern Ireland. Over 11,600 samples were tested between February and November 2013 and some preliminary data on the prevalence of HPV in these samples is now available. The data confirms that 20% of women with mild dyskaryosis and 60% with a borderline result can be safely returned to routine recall. Of the women with a negative cytology result who have undergone HPV test of cure, 76% are also HPV negative and can be returned to routine recall.

Bowel Cancer Screening Programme Patient Satisfaction Survey

In November 2013 the Northern Ireland Bowel Cancer Screening Programme undertook a Patient Satisfaction Survey, with all patients attending for colonoscopy being offered a survey to take home, complete and return in a pre-paid envelope.

Some of the key findings were:

99% of the respondents found the appointment with the Screening Practitioner helpful and felt they had been given enough time with the Screening Practitioner.

100% of respondents said they felt that they were treated with respect throughout the whole screening process.

97% of respondents said they would encourage their friends to participate in screening.

22% of respondents felt that the colonoscopy was more uncomfortable than they had imagined but 64% felt it was less uncomfortable than they had imagined.

99% of respondents felt their privacy was maintained during their hospital visit.

100% of respondents indicated that someone had spoken to them about their colonoscopy before they went home, they felt ready to go home and 98% indicated they had been given information on who to contact if they had any problems after leaving hospital.

Respondents also had the opportunity to add other comments at the end of the survey. These were overwhelmingly positive and some examples are shown below:

'I was treated with great courtesy at all steps of the process. I was kept well informed about all aspects of the tests'

'The staff, both doctors & nurses, were excellent and made one feel relaxed and special. Many thanks'

'I would like to say that I thought that the treatment that I got could not have been improved even if I went privately & it made me very proud of the NHS'

'Thank you to all the staff involved for the courtesy and kindness shown to be during my procedure'

Follow up results: Overall the Patient Satisfaction Survey provided some very positive feedback and good insights into all aspects of the programme. It is expected that the survey will be repeated on a 2-yearly basis.

Colposcopy Conference Friday 16th May 2014

The annual meeting of Northern Ireland Lead Colposcopists takes place in Causeway Hospital this year, followed by a full educational programme. Registration begins at 1pm in the Lecture Theatre, Medical Education Centre, Causeway Hospital, Coleraine

A rich variety of speakers is lined up for the conference The Keynote speaker this year is Dr Emma Crosbie (BSc, MBChB (Hons), PhD, MRCOG) Manchester.

If you would like to attend, and have not received an invitation you are requested to contact Gemma.Harper @hscni.net to register. Submissions are also being taken for Poster Presentations.

Produced by QARC for Health Professionals in NI Cancer Screening Programmes, Spring 2014

If you would like to submit a news item, or would like to publish the results of an audit in **Screening Matters**, please contact Ken McInnes on 02890 311611 or write to Public Health Agency QARC, Ormeau Baths Office, 18 Ormeau Avenue, Belfast BT2 8HS. For further information and back issues, please visit our website at: www.cancerscreening.hscni.net.



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publichealthagency@publichealthni