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Dear Colleagues,

Northern Ireland Standards for Nurses and Midwife Education Providers: Cervical Screening Sample Taking

I have attached a new standard for Education Providers to ensure that nurses and midwives are prepared to the highest standard in cervical screening sample taking.

This work has been completed by a multidisciplinary, multiagency team and sets a clear framework for education providers, supervisors, employers and staff.

The framework provides the principles for both the theoretical content and practical assessment required to prepare nurses and midwives to deliver a competent cervical screening service in clinical practice. It is anticipated that as a result of this work education programmes will be consistent, transparent, transferable, equitable and quality assured.

I would like to thank the group who developed this standard and commend this work to you. I ask that all relevant organisations review current arrangements in light of this publication.

Yours sincerely



CHARLOTTE McARDLE
Chief Nursing Officer

cc Mary Hinds