

### Regional Contacts

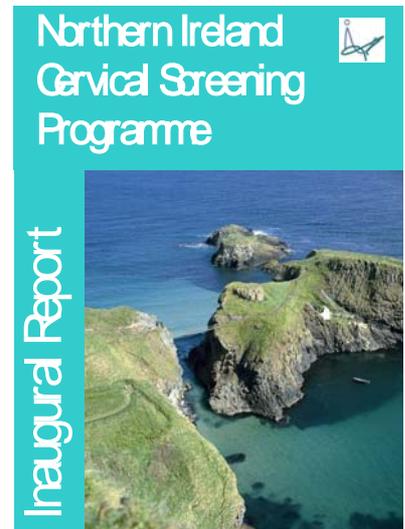
- Dr P Donaghy  
(NI) Regional  
QA Co-Ordinator  
028 9032 1313
- Dr L Caughley  
Regional  
QA Director  
QA Lead Clinician  
EHSSB  
028 9032 2541
- Dr J Carson  
QA Lead Clinician  
NHSSB  
028 9442 4000
- Dr R Clarke  
QA Lead Clinician  
SHSSB  
028 3833 4444
- Dr M Madden  
QA Lead Clinician  
WHSSB  
028 7134 5171
- QARC Team  
028 9055 3949

## Northern Ireland Cervical Screening Programme Inaugural Report

This is the first report published for the Northern Ireland Cervical Screening Programme and contains information on the history of the Programme in Northern Ireland, current initiatives occurring within Laboratories, Primary Care and the Colposcopy Service as well as statistical analysis on coverage and laboratory activity.

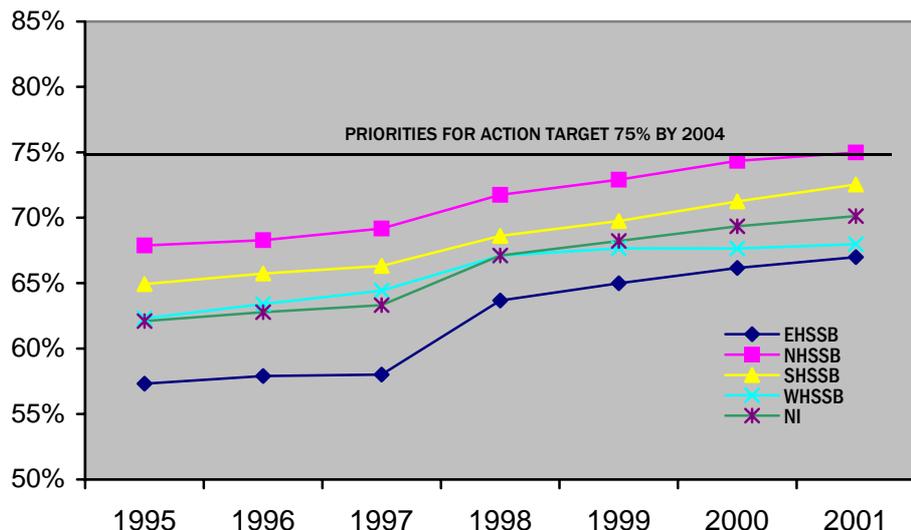
The QARC aims to follow on from this by producing Annual Statistical Reports augmented from time to time with additional information about changes and developments within the Programme.

Copies will be distributed to General Practitioners throughout the province, as well as Colposcopy and Family Planning Clinics and other professionals working in the Programme.



### Rise in Coverage Rates

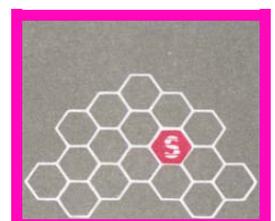
The coverage of eligible women in Northern Ireland for the five year period ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2001 was 70.13%. Coverage has been increasing steadily at approximately 1% per year since 1998.



If you would like to submit an article please contact:

Kevin Briggs  
QARC, 4th Floor  
12-22 Linenhall Street  
BELFAST BT2 8BS  
Phone: 028 9055 3949  
Email: kbriggs@ehssb.n-i.nhs.uk

*The Cervical Screening Inaugural Report  
will contain Core Data Tables outlining  
coverage activity and statistics for year ending  
31 March 2001*

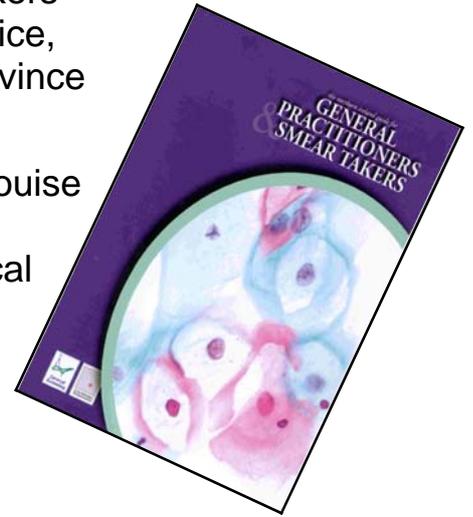




## Northern Ireland General Practitioners and Smear Takers Guide

The Northern Ireland General Practitioners and Smear Takers Guide is being published for distribution to every GP Practice, GUM Clinic and Family Planning Clinic throughout the Province this winter.

The Guide is the end product of work carried out by Mrs Louise Logan, Cervical Cytology Facilitator - (Eastern Health and Social Services Board) - who liaised with the Welsh Cervical Screening Programme on this project. The Cervical Screening Programme in Wales has the same objectives as the Programme here in Northern Ireland and has been generous in its support by sharing some of the work it has already done in liaising with Primary Care.



The overall aim of the Guide is that it should be used as a reference for all Primary Care Health Professionals involved with smear taking. It will be subject to updating as and when local or national policy changes take place in relation to the Cervical Screening Programmes.

## EHSSB CERVICAL CYTOLOGY - UPDATE PROGRAMMES FOR GPs

In March – May 2002, the EHSSB ran a series of three Cervical Cytology Update days for General Practitioners. The aims of the courses were to:

1. Update GPs on current evidence based practice regarding the Cervical Screening Programme.
2. Facilitate Practitioners in increasing their awareness and clinical skills in relation to the process and practice of smear taking.
3. Facilitate an auditing process of GP's Cervical Cytology Programme.

The courses were organised as part of a Primary Care Development Programme and in direct response to the recommendations of the National Health Service Cervical Screening Programme that all smear takers should update their skills and knowledge in this field at least every three years.

The courses were well evaluated and well attended with over 100 GPs attending over three evenings. Speakers on these evenings were Dr Linda Caughley, Consultant Cytopathologist who provided the laboratory perspective - Dr Stephen Dobbs, Consultant Gynaecologist who spoke on the first evening and Dr John Price, Consultant Obstetrician/Gynaecologist who gave a presentation on the management of the abnormal smear. Mrs Louise Logan, Cervical Cytology Facilitator and Sister Edith Barry spoke about the practical aspects of smear taking including recent issues around sterilisation and traceability of instruments used in the procedure.

PGEA accreditation was awarded following the submission of a clinical audit. A total of 24 GPs completed this exercise and Dr Anne Marie Harney, GP Tutor assessed the audits.

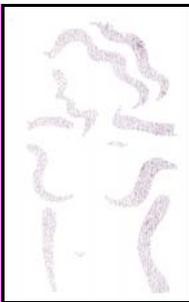
The overall evaluation of the courses



assessed the

have been





# SCREENING MATTERS

## Breast



Newsletter of the Northern Ireland Screening Programmes

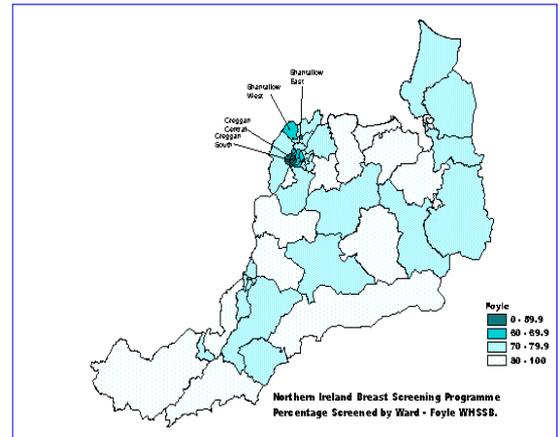
Issue 4 Produced by the QARC for Health Professionals in the NI Screening Programme Winter 02/03

### Regional Contacts

- Dr G Crothers  
Regional  
QA Director  
028 9033 3700
- Dr N Anderson  
QA Pathologist  
028 9024 0503
- Sister J Gray  
QA Breast Care  
Nurse  
028 9032 9241
- Mrs F Houston  
QA Radiographer  
028 9033 3700
- Mrs A Roberts  
QA Administration  
028 9033 3700
- Mr A Wilkinson  
QA Surgeon  
028 9032 9241
- Mr A Workman  
QA Medical  
Physics  
028 9079 3681
- QARC Team  
028 9055 3949

## SCREENING IN SHANTALLOW

Last year at a regional workshop to examine uptake a map was produced which showed areas of high and low uptake for mammography throughout the province. The Western Board had realised since the first mammography cycle that its more rural areas had a significantly higher uptake than the urban areas despite the longer distances required to attend the mammography units. However, the map produced showed this in starker detail. The areas of significantly low uptake were confined to a few small areas of a housing estate on the west bank of the Foyle in Londonderry.



It was agreed that under the Board's new Targeting Social Need Initiative an attempt would be made to improve the uptake in these areas by providing a mammography mobile in the middle of the housing estate.

The opportunity was given by the recent allocation of a third mobile unit for the province funded by the New Opportunities Fund, this allowed more flexibility in usage. There were some concerns about the siting of the mobile given the expense of the equipment but it was eventually agreed to site it in the rear car park of the North Side Shopping Centre which is more or less in the middle of the Shantallow area (where the lowest uptake was identified).

Unfortunately, general practice coverage of the west bank of the Foyle is not clearly defined and some assumptions were made about which practices covered most of Shantallow. It was agreed to alter the timings of the cycle so that these could be dealt with within a matter of 6 weeks in the spring of 2002.

Several years ago a similar exercise in Strabane had been preceded by the stationing of a mobile Health Education Unit on the same site. This had been successful there but unfortunately did not prove as successful in Shantallow, judging by the number of attendees.

Unfortunately, the initial results from the screening exercise did not show an increase and there may even have been a slight decrease in uptake. Amongst the negative comments were the fact that mammography was not associated with supermarket shopping sites but with health service premises.

There is another low uptake area on the west bank in Creggan and it is hoped that some lessons can be learned from the Shantallow experience to try to increase the uptake. It is also believed that the Shantallow exercise would be worth repeating in the next cycle by re-siting the mobile unit in the grounds of the health centre rather than in the supermarket grounds.

We would like to acknowledge the help given by various voluntary organisations, church bodies etc in Shantallow who put a great deal of effort into improving the uptake and we believe there is a valuable lesson, i.e. that improving patient attitudes is likely to be a marathon rather than a sprint.

**Dr Colin Hamilton, Consultant in Public Health Medicine, WH&SSB**





BreastCheck is the National Breast Screening Programme in the South of Ireland. It began screening in February 2000 and has now produced its first Annual Report (covering 2000 and 2001) which is available in the Quality Assurance Reference Centre.

Highlights from the report include:

- The number of eligible women invited for screening was 60,881
- The number who attended screening was 45,321
- The programme exceeded its target uptake rate of 70%, achieving a rate of 73%
- The rate of recall for assessment was 4.4% which is within the Irish target of  $\leq 10\%$
- The overall cancer detection rate achieved by the programme was 9.1 per 1,000 women screened which exceeds the Irish target for the prevalent round of  $>7$  per 1,000
- The number of women diagnosed with breast cancer was 410



Also available in the QARC library



**Building on experience - The Breast Screening Programme Annual Review 2002**

Contains the statistics for the NHS Breast Screening Programme for the 2000/2001 year and includes data for regions in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Mid-life is when you go for a mammogram and you realize that this is the only time someone will ask you to appear topless



**Breast Screening - A Pocket Guide**



A comprehensive pocket guide to Breast Screening has been published by the NHSBSP. It is an informative booklet covering all aspects of breast screening.

Copies are available from: NHS Response Line  
Tel 08701 555 455  
Fax 01623 724 524

Email: [doh@prolog.uk.com](mailto:doh@prolog.uk.com)

**GOOD LUCK ON YOUR RETIREMENT!**

Pat Millar from the Eastern Board Screening Programme has retired. Pat has been a radiographer with the Programme from its inception in September 1989 and will be missed by all in the Eastern Breast Screening Unit.

If you know someone else who would like to be added to the mailing list, or if you have an interesting article to submit, please contact Zoe Hunter at the following address:

**QARC, 4th Floor**  
Champion House  
12-22 Linenhall Street  
BELFAST  
BT2 8BS



Phone: 028 9055 3949  
Fax: 028 9055 3682  
Email: [ZHunter@ehsb.n-i.nhs.uk](mailto:ZHunter@ehsb.n-i.nhs.uk)