



SCREENING MATTERS

Cervical

Newsletter of the Northern Ireland Screening Programmes

Issue 5

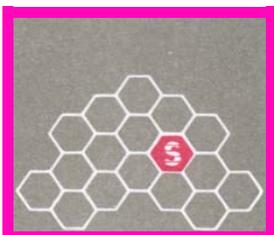
Produced by the QARC for Health Professionals in the NI Screening Programme

Summer 2004

Regional Contacts

- Dr P Donaghy
(NI) Regional QA
Co-Ordinator
- Dr L Caughley
(NI) Regional QA
Director
QA Lab Co-Ordinator
EHSSB
Belfast City Hospital
- Dr J Carson
QA Lab Co-Ordinator
NHSSB
Antrim Area Hospital
- Dr R Clarke
QA Lab Co-Ordinator
SHSSB
Craigavon Area Hospital
- Dr M Madden
QA Lab Co-Ordinator
WHSSB
Altnagelvin Hospital

• **QARC Team**
028 9055 3949



NI Screening Programmes

Coverage figure for 2002/2003 follows the same trend as NHSCSP figures.

At 31st March 2002, 72.15% of women aged 25-64 resident in Northern Ireland had been screened at least once in the previous five years indicating a continuing rise towards the target set by the DHSS&PS in their 2002 strategy "PRIORITIES FOR ACTION" "**that 75% of Cervical Screening Coverage should be achieved by 2004**". Unfortunately the coverage figure at 31st March 2003, showed a slight downward turn at 72.01%. While this is disappointing it does mirror an overall trend shown by the National Screening Programme in England.

COVERAGE STATISTICS

For 5 Year Period Ending 31 March 2003

	Eligible Population	Coverage	Percentage
EHSSB	156,814	108,457	69.16%
NHSSB	98,345	75,863	77.14%
SHSSB	73,775	54,944	74.47%
WHSSB	72,262	49,653	68.71%
NI TOTAL	401,197	288,917	72.01%

The coverage figures for 2001/2002 are available on the fact sheet.

This year's coverage figures were calculated by the QARC, closely following the method used by DIS in previous years.



If you would like to receive a regular copy of this newsletter or submit an article please contact:

Clare Privilege
QARC
12-22 Linenhall Street
BELFAST
BT2 8BS

Phone: 028 9055 3949
Fax: 028 9055 3682
Email: cprivilege@ehssb.n-i.nhs.uk

A fact sheet detailing statistics on uptake and coverage for both Breast and Cervical Screening can be obtained by contacting Clare Privilege at the QARC

Smear Takers Information Update Evenings

A series of Smear Takers Information Update Seminars have been held between November 2003 and February 2004, according to recommendations of the NHS Cervical Screening Programme that all smear takers should be updated every 3-5 years. The seminars were open to GPs and Nurses involved with smear taking in their practices, and in all nearly 120 people attended with good representation from across the EH&SSB and some nurses travelling to attend from the WH&SSB.

Dr Philip Donaghy opened the evenings discussing 'Changing Issues in Cervical Screening'. Of particular topical interest to GPs was the talk given by Dr Anne Marie Harney which addressed issues surrounding the New GP Contract and Cervical Screening. This was followed by a talk from Mrs Rosemary Wilson, Barrister at Law who addressed the Medico/Legal aspects of screening specifically addressing 'Accountability', 'Consent', 'Negligence' and 'Documentation'. Mrs Beverley Mann discussed the aspects of traceability of medical instruments and Bench-top Steam Sterilisers providing practical demonstrations and displays of CSSD policies and procedures. Dr Linda Caughley and Dr Neil Anderson provided information on the Cytology Laboratory perspective of cervical screening.

We were very pleased to have the first Nurse Colposcopist to be trained in Northern Ireland, Gwen Thompson, who discussed 'Management of the abnormal Smear and What the Patient should be told before attending Colposcopy'. Sister Edith Barry ended the evening by discussing practical aspects of smear taking, including practical solutions on how to obtain a good smear test.

My sincerest thanks go to all speakers for their valuable input.

Louise Logan, Screening Facilitator, EHSSB

Policy Change on Follow-Up of Abnormal Smears

Until now responsibility for follow-up after an abnormal smear, if indicated by the Cytopathology Laboratory, has always rested with the taker of the smear, which was usually the woman's General Practitioner (GP).

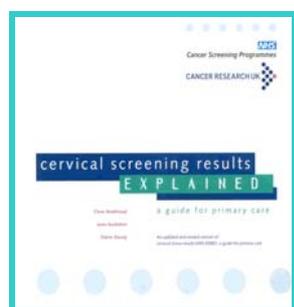
Therefore, if a woman required a follow-up smear and subsequently changed her GP, then the follow-up correspondence or reminders still went to the original taker of the smear.

This policy relating to Follow-Up has now changed.

From 1st March 2002, if a woman has an abnormal smear and changes her GP then responsibility will no longer rest with the original taker of the smear but with the new GP.

However, it should be noted that:

1. Correspondence will only be redirected if the taker of the smear that requires follow-up is a GP: i.e. has a valid GP Cypher Code.
2. This applies in ALL cases: i.e. the GP may not be the woman's registered GP, e.g. a female partner in a practice or a GP taking smears at a Family Planning Clinic.
3. Smears may be taken by medical professionals in other circumstances, e.g. at Colposcopy or GUM clinics. In these circumstances a change of registered GP will NOT redirect the follow-up correspondence.



CERVICAL SCREENING RESULTS EXPLAINED

This NHSCSP booklet presents the possible cervical screening outcomes, explains what they mean and the recommended action to be taken in each case. A copy of this booklet is being sent to all GPs and those working within the NI Cervical Screening Programmes.



SCREENING MATTERS

Breast

Newsletter of the Northern Ireland Screening Programmes

Issue 5

Produced by the QARC for Health Professionals in the NI Screening Programme

Summer

Regional Contacts

- Dr G Crothers
Regional
QA Director
- Dr N Anderson
QA Pathologist
- Sister J Gray
QA Breast Care
Nurse
- Mrs F Houston
QA Radiographer
- Mrs A Roberts
QA Administration
- Mr A Wilkinson
QA Surgeon
- Mr A Workman
QA Medical
Physics

QARC Team
028 9055 3949

Redeveloped National Breast Screening

System

On the 25th and 26th February 2004, the Redeveloped National Breast Screening System became operational in Northern Ireland.

This was a result of hard work and commitment by the Northern Ireland NBSS Project Team, who participated in site visits, national meetings and user acceptance testing to ensure the smooth implementation of the redeveloped system.

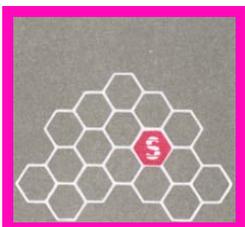
Changes to the System have included:

- Migration to a more stable (supported) environment. All users are now using the Cache database, installed on the NI HPSS Consolidated Server
- Transition from the existing terminal based mode of operation to a client server architecture. The NBSS application now runs on a PC environment with Word, Excel and MS Access
- A 'Graphical User Interface' to the NBSS database now exists and users agree that the new system is user friendly and has enhanced functionality
- Improvements to report generating capabilities. The complex Co-writer report development application has now been replaced with an easier to use 'Crystal' reports application.

The NI NBSS Project has been successful, achieving all objectives within the agreed timescales and it is with thanks to the NBSS Project Team and in particular, Mrs Jacqui Murphy, Project Manager, that a robust IT system is in place, thus ensuring the ongoing operation of the NI Breast Cancer Screening Programme.

Dr Philip F. Donaghy
(NI) Regional QA Coordinator

Congratulations to Suzanne Moore.



Suzanne has become the first qualified Assistant Practitioner in the breast screening programme in Northern Ireland having successfully completed her NVQ Level 3 and her Mammographic Assessment. In terms of mammography she has been trained to the same level as a radiographer and will perform basic mammography in the screening unit and mobile unit. Our congratulations to Suzanne on her achievement.

Due to funding restrictions the Department of Health now issue only one copy of National Publications to QARC. To ensure you receive National Publications you can request your name be added to their mailing list either in writing or by email – details below:

Department of Health PO Box 777
London SE1 6XH

Tel: 08701 555 455
Fax: 01623 724 524
Email doh@prolog.uk.com
Web www.doh.gov.uk

STATISTICS

Uptake for year ending 31 March 2003

	Number Invited	Number Screened	Uptake Rate
EHSSB	18,168	12,243	67.4
NHSSB	10,065	8,173	81.2
SHSSB	8,219	6,156	74.9
WHSSB	6,872	5,133	74.7
NI	43,324	31,705	73.2

QA Visit

In the Autumn of 2003 there was an external assessment of all four Screening Units. This was performed by NHS Quality Improvement Scotland (NHSQIS). There were two separate visits by a Radiologist, Surgeon, Pathologist, Breast Care Nurse, Admin and Clerical Supervisor and a Physicist - a very comprehensive team. All in all the report was very positive. Our own QA subsequently revisited all four Units to discuss any issues raised by NHSQIS. Some of the issues raised were beyond our control - for example the redevelopment of Linenhall Street Screening Unit, the business plan for this is still with Belfast City Hospital. Overall the report was very complimentary and the individual Units benefited from having to revisit and document many of the established protocols.

Dr Graham Crothers, Regional QA Director

In this issue's article corner, Suzanne Moore Northern Ireland's first qualified Assistant Practitioner in the Breast Screening Programme shares her experience with us.



My first Job working for the National Health Service was as a nursing auxiliary in the Mater Hospital. I worked on the female medical ward for 18 months. I then applied for a post as a community auxiliary with the South and East Belfast Trust. The post involved intensive rehabilitation of clients in their own homes, working as part of a multidisciplinary team, under the guidance of the district nurses, physiotherapists and chiropodists. I enjoyed the work immensely for six years.

I then applied for a post as an auxiliary in ACG theatre in the Royal Victoria, however the position did not involve any patient contact and I missed this a great deal. The radiographers in the department encouraged me to apply for the post of radiography helper within the main x-ray department. I applied for the post really knowing very little about it, but got the job. I loved the work and the staff, so I set about learning everything I possibly could. I enjoyed working with the radiographers in all the different areas and they were always willing to explain the examinations and if time permitted talk about their skills. I was happy in the department but always longed to have more responsibility. I was aware that radiography was changing and that many radiographers were increasing their knowledge and skills and taking on new roles and responsibilities. When the opportunity arose to join the Breast Screening Service based in the Belfast City Hospital I jumped at it. I was aware that nationally the Breast Screening Service was embracing the four tier system and that some centres in England were employing radiographic helpers and training them to become Assistant Practitioners. I have enjoyed the work so much and feel a real sense of achievement at having completed the NVQ level 3.

Suzanne Moore