

SCREENING MATTERS

Cervical

Newsletter of the Northern Ireland Screening Programmes

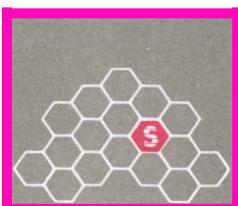
Issue 7

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

Spring 2005

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NI Screening Programmes

REGIONAL CERVICAL SCREENING & CELLULAR PATHOLOGY REVIEW PROJECT

The Northern Ireland Cervical Screening Programme makes extensive use of a uniquely integrated information system. This system facilitates the functionality of cervical call/recall and Cellular Pathology.

Whilst it has served the Screening Programme and Laboratories well since its introduction in 1988, a variety of pressures has led to the need to review current arrangements to ensure that the Programme continues to provide an effective and efficient screening service for women and to secure a suitable solution to meet current and future Cellular Pathology requirements.

As such, a formal Project was set up in Spring 2004 to replace the current NI Cervical Screening & Cellular Pathology System by:

- ♦ Implementation of the Cervical Screening Module of the Family Practitioner System (FPS) to facilitate the call/recall function – this will be Phase I.
- ♦ Followed by Implementation of a Cellular Pathology Laboratory System – this will be Phase II.

Implementation of the FPS System will mean:

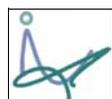
- Northern Ireland operating under the national IT structure for Cervical Screening
- Electronic transfer of records of women who move in and out of Northern Ireland
- The potential for General Practitioners to receive PNLs via electronic links

A Project Team and Laboratory Sub-Group are currently involved in examining business processes, undertaking data cleansing and preparing the NI database and it is anticipated that Phase I will be completed by Summer 2005, followed by Phase II by the end of the year.

A special edition of "Screening Matters" will be distributed prior to "go live" of Phase I and will update you with further details.

Jacqui Murphy, Project Manager, DIS

An updated fact sheet with coverage figures for the 5 year period ending 31st March 2004 will be available soon.



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

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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

WHAT'S NEW IN CERVICAL CYTOLOGY?



1. New Computer System

First phase comes on line in Summer 2005 with complete implementation by the end of 2005. This will hopefully make no perceivable difference to the actual call/recall system. A lot of work is being done to “clean-up” the list on the present system. Some of the advantages have been listed on the previous page.

2. New Screening Intervals

New screening intervals have been introduced in England and have now been approved for Northern Ireland. These will be implemented with the introduction of the new computer system in Summer 2005.

More information about the background to these changes can be found in the paper by Sasieni P. et. al. (BMJ (2003) 89, 88-93).

AGE	SCREENING INTERVAL
24.5 years	First Invitation
25-49 years	3 yearly
50-64 years	5 yearly

It is hoped with these new screening intervals that GPs will now be confident to use the central screening call/recall system, thus saving administration costs at Practice level.

3. New Regional Form

A new regional smear request form has been designed to incorporate the new H&C number.

4. Result Letters

It should be good practice in all surgeries that all women receive notification of their results in writing – including normal results. It may be that the new computer system will be capable of sending normal result letters from the central office – more information available later.

5. Practice Nurse Codes

It is hoped to issue each Practice Nurse with an individual code, so making audit of smear results easier.



6. Colposcopy

When referring a patient to colposcopy it is normal practice to write to them as well. It would be helpful to enclose a yellow colposcopy leaflet with the letter so that she is aware of what the procedure involves. These leaflets can be obtained from your local board Health Promotion department.

7. Contract Issues

Women can now request in writing not to be called for a smear. This decision will be revisited in 5 years. Please remember that the Central Screening Office will only defer to the next recall date (which may be 3 years under the new screening intervals). The only women removed from the call/recall are those who have no cervix e.g. having had a total abdominal hysterectomy, or who have died.

**Dr Michael Chambers,
GP Representative, Primary Care Group**



SCREENING MATTERS

Breast



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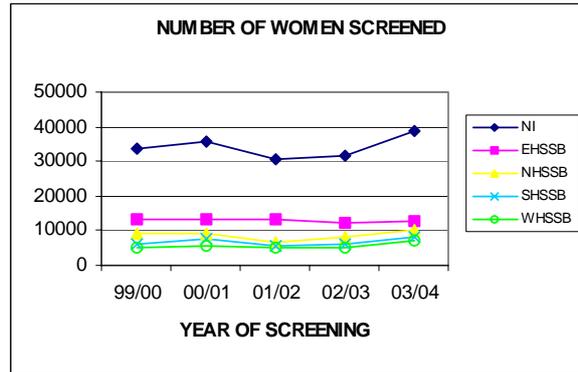
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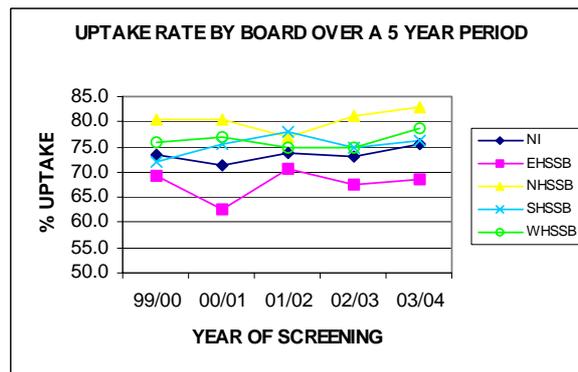
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REVIEW OF STATISTICS 2003/2004

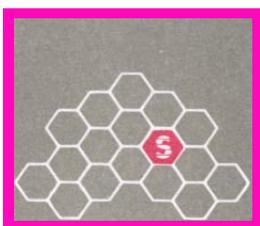


If last year was one of steady progress, this year was one of progress in the face of adversity with the programme being subjected to several challenging staffing issues. There was, however, an increase in activity with over 38,500 women accepting their invitation to screening. This reflects an increase in uptake and indeed this has been the first year that Northern Ireland has reached 75%.

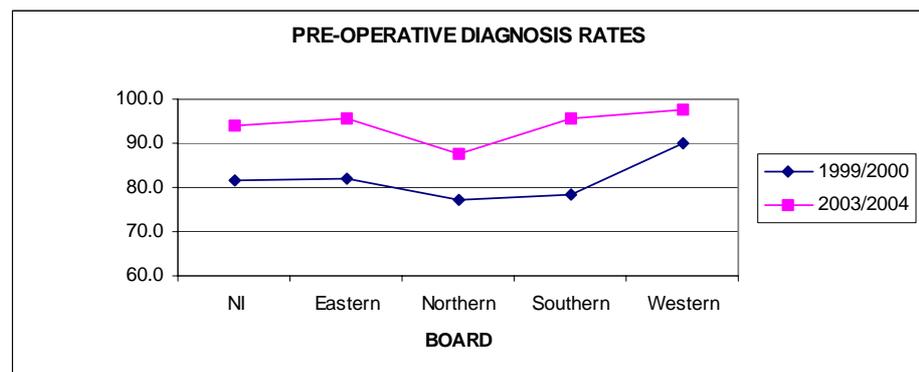


The pre-operative diagnosis rates have been increasing year on year. New diagnostic techniques, particularly the use of core biopsy, have aided the diagnosis of cancer without the woman needing an operation. Huge bounds have been made over the last 5 years in each of the units. The Western Board does consistently well and reached 97.8% this year.

J G Crothers



NI Screening Programmes



A Customer Satisfaction Survey was carried out across Northern Ireland in 2004. The results from this were very pleasing and demonstrate that the vast majority of women are more than happy with the service and the way it is being delivered. 92.7% of women surveyed said they would attend again when next invited.

There has been a new leaflet produced entitled "Satisfactory test results—what now?". This complements the other leaflets in the range and they are



able from the Health Promotion agencies in Board areas.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS & TRAINING

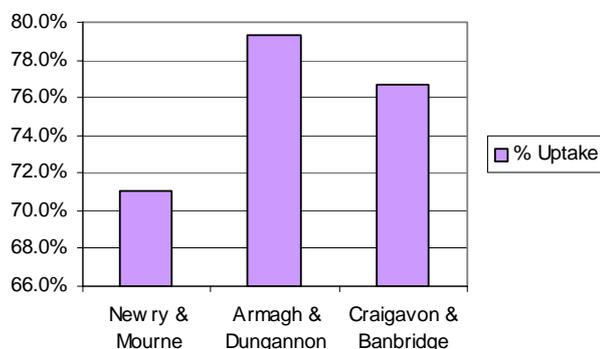


- The Coventry Breast Screening Training Centre runs a series of courses designed for personnel within the NHSBSP. For the current list (Jan 2005—July 2005) please either contact the QARC or the Coventry Training Office directly on 024 7684 4085
- The Radiographers are holding a Regional Study Day on 9th June 2005 at the Dunadry Hotel. This is of interest to Radiographers working within screening and symptomatic services in both the private and public sector. For information contact Frances Houston, Tel 9033 3700

Television comedienne "Ma"—alias Olivia Nash—has lent her support to the campaign encouraging women to keep breast screening appointments. Dr Anne Marie Telford, Public Health Director of the SHSSB, said they were particularly appealing to women in Newry and Mourne because the uptake rates for breast screening are the lowest in the Southern Board's area. (Newsletter 09/02/05)



Uptake Rates for the Southern Board area (2001/2004)



CAPRICORN

Cancer And Palliative Care Online Resource Network

The QARC is saying "Bon Voyage" to Margaret McManus who has been PA to both the Reference Centre and Dr Philip Donaghy for the past 5 years. She is moving to pastures new as Project Officer for CAPRICORN (Cancer And Palliative Care Online Resource Network).

We wish her good luck!

www.capricorn-ni.org



If you would like to receive a regular copy of this newsletter or submit an article, please contact Ruth Greenlees at the following address:



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