

NHS Borders

Assessment Report ~ *August 2006*

Scottish Cervical Screening Programme 2006 Follow-up

© NHS Quality Improvement Scotland 2006

First published August 2006

You can copy or reproduce the information in this document for use within NHSScotland and for educational purposes. You must not make a profit using information in this document. Commercial organisations must get our written permission before reproducing this document.

www.nhshealthquality.org

Introduction

In line with the commitment made by NHS Quality Improvement Scotland (NHS QIS) following the previous Scotland-wide review of cervical screening services in 2003, a follow-up review of services was agreed to be carried out during 2005–2006. Because of the new developments within the Scottish Cervical Screening Programme, it was agreed that a full performance assessment review against the existing NHS QIS cervical screening standards was inappropriate at this time. Instead, a streamlined, high level, paper-based approach was developed to avoid placing undue burden on NHS Boards.

The NHS QIS approach to assessing clinical areas generally follows the patient journey of care. However, the Scottish Cervical Screening Programme includes components that do not form part of the journey for the majority of women, eg failsafe and colposcopy. In discussion with a variety of stakeholders, it was recognised that a different approach was required. The review, therefore, followed the original format of assessing the five major components of the screening programme, recognising the dual importance of communication linkages across the programme and provision of appropriate information for women at all stages of their journey.

Not all of the cervical screening standards are amenable to a paper-based exercise, therefore, only those criteria were assessed where documented evidence could be provided to support performance. A list of the key documents (evidence) requested to assess NHS Board performance against each criterion, and the reasons for requesting this evidence, are provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Evidence in support of assessment

Evidence required	Reason for request	Criteria assessed
Cervical screening annual reports for last 3 years	To provide an overview of cervical screening services in each NHS Board area.	1(a)1 1(d)1 3(d)1 4(b)1 4(b)2 4(b)3 4(e)1 4(g)1
Minutes of the multidisciplinary cervical screening co-ordinating group (last six meetings of the group)	To assess lay involvement and frequency of co-ordinating group meetings, and organisation of the cervical screening programme in each NHS Board.	1(a)1 1(a)2 1(d)1
Service specification	To provide detailed information on the service levels which should be provided, and the monitoring of key performance indicators and outcome measures.	1(b)1 1(b)2

Evidence required	Reason for request	Criteria assessed
Cervical screening action plan following 2003 NHS QIS review	To assess plans for meeting criteria which were assessed as 'not met' in previous performance assessment review.	All criteria assessed as 'not met' for each NHS Board in 2003 performance assessment review
Cervical screening progress report against action plan, if separate from above	To assess progress against action plans following previous performance assessment review.	All criteria assessed as 'not met' for each NHS Board in 2003 performance assessment review
Cytopathology department annual reports for last 3 years	To assess criteria which relate to laboratory reporting.	3(d)1 4(b)1 4(b)2 4(b)3 4(e)1 4(g)1
Correspondence confirming participation in the national proficiency-testing scheme (obtained centrally from chair of scheme)	To confirm participation in the national proficiency-testing scheme.	4(e)2
GP contract monitoring –Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) returns for all GP practices for Quality Indicator CS04	To assess degree to which protocols are in place to allow women to be reinstated in call-recall after opting out.	2(e)1
ISD statistics for 2004–2005	To assess the uptake of cervical screening across all NHS Boards and to assess waiting times for reporting of smear results to smear-takers.	2(a)3 4(f)1
Clinical Pathology Accreditation (CPA) report (most recent report)	To assess criteria which relate to laboratory reporting.	4(a)1
Communication and correspondence between NHS Board and clinical pathology accreditation UK (Ltd) following last CPA accreditation report	To assess criteria which relate to laboratory reporting.	4(a)1

Assessment categories

When assessing performance, the categories 'met', 'not met' and 'not met (insufficient evidence)' were used, as detailed below.

- **'Met'** applies where the evidence demonstrates the standard and/or criterion is being attained.
- **'Not met'** applies where the evidence demonstrates the standard and/or criterion is not being attained.
- **'Not met (insufficient evidence)'** applies where no evidence is available for the review team, or where the evidence available is insufficient to allow an assessment to be made.

A final category **'not applicable'** is used where a standard and/or criterion does not apply to the NHS Board under review.

Reports

This report presents the findings from the review of evidence submitted by **NHS Borders**. For further information on the Scottish Cervical Screening Programme, and an overview of the findings of the follow-up review, please refer to the NHS QIS current status report, also published in August 2006. Copies of all reports are available on request from NHS QIS or on the website (www.nhshealthquality.org).

NHS Borders

Standard 1 – General

Standard Statement 1(a) An effective cervical screening service is available and offered in NHS Borders.

Criterion 1(a)1 Every NHS Board has a multidisciplinary co-ordinating group with lay representation that meets at least annually and contributes to an annual report to the Board.

This group is responsible for ensuring that effective cervical screening is offered and available to eligible women in their area in accordance with current NHSSP/SEHD/NHS QIS (formerly CSBS) guidance.

Evidence assessed:

- Annual report (2004–2005)
- Minutes of the cervical cytology steering group
- Action plan update (November 2005)

2006 performance: Met

Details of the cervical cytology steering group and its terms of reference are recorded in the cervical screening annual report, which is submitted and considered by Borders NHS Board.

Minutes of the cervical cytology steering group's meetings confirmed that there is lay representation on this group, and that meetings are held at least annually.

2003 performance: Not met

Criterion 1(a)2 There is a designated consultant in public health medicine with responsibility for overseeing and monitoring the provision of cervical screening in their area which meets the NHS QIS (formerly CSBS) standards. (Responsibility may be delegated to key staff as appropriate.)

Evidence assessed:

- Annual report (2004–2005)

2006 performance: Met

Within NHS Borders, there is a consultant in public health medicine who is responsible for overseeing and monitoring the provision of cervical screening in the area.

2003 performance: Met

Standard Statement 1(b) There is a specific specification in place, developed by, and including, all those involved in providing and monitoring cervical screening services in NHS Boards.

Criterion 1(b)1 The service specification includes the following: audit, training, quality assurance, information for women, call-recall, smear-taking, smear reporting, follow-up and treatment.

Evidence assessed:

- Service level agreement (November 2005)

2006 performance: Met

It was confirmed that NHS Borders has a service level agreement which includes all the information required to meet the criterion.

2003 performance: Met

Criterion 1(b)2 NHS Boards have arrangements in place to ensure the specification is met and monitored on a regular basis.

Evidence assessed:

- Service level agreement (November 2005)

2006 performance: Met

Information included in the service level agreement confirmed that there are arrangements to ensure the specification is met and monitored on a regular basis.

2003 performance: Met

Standard Statement 1(d) Case review and audit is undertaken to facilitate continuing improvement.

Criterion 1(d)1 Screening histories of women developing invasive cancer are reviewed, and any areas of the programme which require improvement are identified and addressed.

Evidence assessed:

- Annual report (2004–2005)

2006 performance: Met

Evidence provided confirmed that there is review of screening histories of women developing invasive cancer, and that any areas of the programme which require improvement are identified and addressed.

2003 performance: Met

Standard 2 – Call-Recall & Failsafe

Standard Statement 2(a) Effective call-recall arrangements are in place to ensure all eligible women aged 20–60 are invited for screening at least once every 5 years.

Criterion 2(a)3 A minimum of 80% of women aged 20–60 are screened at least once every 5 years.

Evidence assessed:

- ISD Scotland national statistics release (2004–2005)

2006 performance: Met

Evidence provided indicated that over 80% of women aged 20–60 are screened at least once every 5 years.

2003 performance: Met

Standard Statement 2(e) Women who opt-out of the cervical screening programme remain on the call-recall system and have the opportunity to be reinstated at a later date.

Criterion 2(e)1 A protocol is in place to communicate with women who have opted out of screening during a previous round.

Evidence assessed:

- Quality and Outcomes Framework (April 2004–March 2005)

2006 performance: Not met

It was noted that NHS Borders has a protocol for communicating with women who have opted out of screening. However, the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) for April 2004–March 2005 was used to assess performance against this criterion. More specifically, analysis of the number of nGMS practices achieving full score (ie 2/2) against the QOF indicator CSO4 was used as an indicator of performance. The CSO4 indicator states that women who have opted for exclusion from the cervical cytology recall register must be offered the opportunity to change their decision at least every 5 years. To take account of the small number of practices which do not provide cervical cytology, it was agreed that, where 95% or more of nGMS practices achieve full score against the CSO4 indicator, the NHS Board will be allocated an assessment of 'met'.

From the evidence provided, it was noted that the full score (2/2) was achieved in 91.3% of 23 nGMS practices in NHS Borders; therefore, this criterion is not met. It was, however, acknowledged that this assessment is based on a small number of nGMS practices.

2003 performance: Met

Standard 3 – Smear-taking

Standard Statement 3(d) Women younger than 20 years should not be included in the NHS Scottish Cervical Screening Programme.

Criterion 3(d)1 Smears are not taken from women younger than 20 years as part of the cervical screening programme. If a smear is taken, the reasons for this are clearly documented on the request form.

Evidence assessed:

- Annual report (2004–2005)
- ISD data

2006 performance: Met

In order to ensure a fair and consistent approach to assessment of this criterion, it was agreed that where data confirm that less than 1% of the total smears taken were from women under the age of 20, the NHS Board will be allocated an assessment of 'met'.

From the evidence available, it was confirmed that 47 smears out of a total of 8,733 (0.5%) were taken from women younger than 20 years of age during 2005.

2003 performance: Met

Standard 4 – Laboratory Reporting

Standard Statement 4(a) Laboratories providing cervical screening services (cytology and histology) meet recognised professional standards.

Criterion 4(a)1 Evidence of current Clinical Pathology Accreditation (CPA) (or equivalent).

Evidence assessed:

- Not applicable

2006 performance: Not applicable*

2003 performance: Met (assessment allocated to NHS Lothian in 2003 performance assessment review)

Standard Statement 4(b) Laboratories monitor cervical cytology reporting profiles.

Criterion 4(b)1 The laboratory reporting profiles conform to the ranges given in current guidelines.

Evidence assessed:

- Not applicable

2006 performance: Not applicable*

2003 performance: Met (assessment allocated to NHS Lothian in 2003 performance assessment review)

*All smears taken in the Borders are read in NHS Lothian. During the 2005–2006 review of cervical screening services, it was agreed that, for those NHS Boards which do not directly provide laboratory reporting services, an assessment of 'not applicable' would be assigned.

<p>Criterion 4(b)2 Sensitivity of primary screening conforms to standards recommended in the Achievable Standards, Benchmarks for Reporting, and Criteria for Evaluating Cervical Cytopathology document.</p> <p>Evidence assessed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not applicable
<p>2006 performance: Not applicable*</p>
<p>2003 performance: Met (assessment allocated to NHS Lothian in 2003 performance assessment review)</p>

<p>Criterion 4(b)3 Positive Predictive Value conforms to standards recommended in the Achievable Standards, Benchmarks for Reporting, and Criteria for Evaluating Cervical Cytopathology document.</p> <p>Evidence assessed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not applicable
<p>2006 performance: Not applicable*</p>
<p>2003 performance: Met (assessment allocated to NHS Lothian in 2003 performance assessment review)</p>

Standard Statement 4(e) There is evidence of internal quality control and external quality assurance.

<p>Criterion 4(e)1 Rapid review is carried out for all normal and inadequate smears prior to issuing the final report.</p> <p>Evidence assessed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not applicable
<p>2006 performance: Not applicable*</p>
<p>2003 performance: Met (assessment allocated to NHS Lothian in 2003 performance assessment review)</p>

<p>Criterion 4(e)2 All staff reporting cervical cytology participate in the national proficiency-testing scheme.</p> <p>Evidence assessed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not applicable
<p>2006 performance: Not applicable*</p>
<p>2003 performance: Met (assessment allocated to NHS Lothian in 2003 performance assessment review)</p>

Standard Statement 4(f) There is a timely issue of laboratory results of smear-takers.

Criterion 4(f)1 A minimum of 80% of smears are reported to smear-takers within three weeks (15 working days).

Evidence assessed:

- Not applicable

2006 performance: Not applicable*

2003 performance: Met (assessment allocated to NHS Lothian in 2003 performance assessment review)

Standard Statement 4(g) There is evidence of comprehensive correlation of colposcopic biopsies and subsequent histological specimens with cervical smears.

Criterion 4(g)1 Cytology laboratories have a system in place for pursuing the outcome of all patients with abnormal smears referred to colposcopy.

Evidence assessed:

- Not applicable

2006 performance: Not applicable*

2003 performance: Not met (assessment allocated to NHS Lothian in 2003 performance assessment review)

Summary

NHS Borders continues to demonstrate that it offers an effective cervical screening programme, co-ordinated at Board level by a multidisciplinary group. The NHS Board action plan identifies that progress is being made in areas identified as challenges following the performance assessment review in 2003.

You can read and download this document from our website.
We can also provide this information:

- by email
- in large print
- on audio tape or CD
- in Braille, and
- in community languages.

NHS Quality Improvement Scotland

Edinburgh Office
Elliott House
8-10 Hillside Crescent
Edinburgh EH7 5EA

Phone: 0131 623 4300
Textphone: 0131 623 4383

Email: comments@nhshealthquality.org
Website: www.nhshealthquality.org

Glasgow Office
Delta House
50 West Nile Street
Glasgow G1 2NP

Phone: 0141 225 6999
Textphone: 0141 241 6316