



Public Health
England



Quality Assurance Report

NHS cervical screening programme
Southport and Ormskirk Hospitals NHS
Trust visit on 18-19 May 2016

Version 1.0/ August 2016

Public Health England leads the NHS Screening Programmes

About Public Health England

Public Health England exists to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing, and reduce health inequalities. It does this through world-class science, knowledge and intelligence, advocacy, partnerships and the delivery of specialist public health services. PHE is an operationally autonomous executive agency of the Department of Health.

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About PHE Screening

Screening identifies apparently healthy people who may be at increased risk of a disease or condition, enabling earlier treatment or better informed decisions. National population screening programmes are implemented in the NHS on the advice of the UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC), which makes independent, evidence-based recommendations to ministers in the four UK countries. The Screening Quality Assurance Service ensures programmes are safe and effective by checking that national standards are met. PHE leads the NHS Screening Programmes and hosts the UK NSC secretariat.

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Executive summary

The findings in this report relate to the quality assurance (QA) review of the Southport & Ormskirk Hospitals NHS Trust cervical screening service held 18-19 May 2016.

Purpose and approach to quality assurance (QA)

The aim of quality assurance in NHS screening programmes is to maintain minimum standards and promote continuous improvement in cervical screening. This is to ensure that all eligible people have access to a consistent high quality service wherever they live.

QA visits are carried out by the PHE screening quality assurance service (SQAS). The evidence for this report is derived from the following sources:

- routine monitoring data collected by the NHS Screening Programmes;
- data and reports from external organisations as appropriate;
- evidence submitted by the provider(s), commissioner and external organisations as appropriate;
- information shared with the QA Team as part of the visit process.

Description of Local Screening Programme

Southport & Ormskirk Hospitals NHS Trust provides healthcare in hospital and the community to 258,000 people across Southport, Formby and West Lancashire. Cytology cervical screening services are provided by Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Manchester Cytology Centre) and Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust (Liverpool Clinical Laboratories). Histology cervical screening services are provided by St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (Whiston District General Hospital). Colposcopy at Southport & Ormskirk Hospitals NHS Trust (Ormskirk District General and Southport & Formby District General Hospital) is commissioned by NHS Knowsley CCG.

Key Findings

The QA team found a well-functioning colposcopy service with strong leadership from the lead colposcopist which is evident throughout the whole team. We recognise this is a complex geography which maintains a good working multidisciplinary function. The enthusiasm of the whole team is to improve its service to women.

There are two colposcopy units, one located in Southport & Formby District General Hospital within a shared building with sexual health services and one located in

Ormskirk District General Hospital gynaecology department. Accommodation at both sites was spacious with suitable consultation rooms and IT equipment.

Following a recent patient satisfaction questionnaire the service received positive comments relating to the attitudes of the staff and the service patients receive. The programme should be commended for this.

The high priority issues are summarised below as well as areas of shared learning.

There were no immediate recommendations.

The QA team advised that the following areas be addressed with high priority:

- formally appoint a hospital based programme coordinator to undertake the role within the trust
- adherence to the national triage and 'test of cure' protocol (the test of cure protocol is a cervical sample taken post treatment for cervical abnormalities to ensure the treatment was successful)
- job plan review and development for lead colposcopist and GP with special interest in colposcopy

Shared Learning

The review team identified several areas of practice that are worth sharing:

- comprehensive set of administration standard operating procedures with cross cover working to support the delivery of the administration function
- all nurses working with the colposcopy service complete annual competency profomas. Only nurses who have completed these are able to work in the units

Immediate concerns for improvement

The review team identified no immediate concerns.

High priority issues

The review team identified two high priority issues, as grouped below.

- appoint a hospital based programme coordinator to undertake the full role
- adherence to the national triage and 'test of cure' protocol
- job plan review and development for lead colposcopist and GP with special interest in colposcopy

Key Recommendations

A number of recommendations were made related to the high priority issues identified above. These are summarised in the table below:

Level	Theme	Description of recommendation
High	Guidance	appoint hospital based programme coordinator to undertake the role in the trust
High	Guidance	adherence to discharging women as per 'test of cure' protocol
High	Guidance	job plan review and development for lead colposcopist and GP with special interest in colposcopy

Next Steps

Southport & Ormskirk Hospitals NHS Trust is responsible for developing an action plan to ensure completion of recommendations contained within this report.

NHS England Screening & Immunisation Team Cheshire and Merseyside and Lancashire will be responsible for monitoring progress against the action plan and ensuring all recommendations are implemented.