



# Lancashire & South Cumbria

## TRAINING HUB

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**Lancashire and South Cumbria Training Hub is continuing to add Smear Supervisor/Assessors to their Register from practices/PCNS across all five training hubs.**

**This continued promotion will hugely assist with the standardised supervision and assessment of new smear takers**

We are calling out for additional expressions of interest for nurse smear takers from each PCN who would be interested in becoming a Smear Supervisor/Assessor.

The training consists of an online training module with a small reflective piece to complete at the end. Total time for completion 2.5hours.

The training course is fully funded and back fill will be paid to the practice at £75.00 in total as payment in releasing the nurse to complete the required (2.5 Hours) training.

Please See the National Guidelines for Mentors / Assessors below

**Please forward expressions of interest to:**

Monique Marcolini at : [pl.th@nhs.net](mailto:pl.th@nhs.net)



# **Cervical screening mentors and assessors**

## **Cervical screening mentor**

The cervical screening mentor ('mentor' from this point) supports the trainee through their practical sample taker training and confirms their achievement for progression to the final evaluation and clinical assessment.

The trainee identifies to the training provider an individual who will take on the mentor role in their place of work.

The trainee must notify the training provider of any change in local circumstances that affects or is likely to affect their mentor support.

Mentors must be one of the following, a:

- registered nurse
- registered midwife
- registered physician associate
- GMC registered medical doctor

Mentors must be practising sample takers with at least 12 months continuous experience, having taken at least 50 cervical samples following completion of their own initial training. Mentors must have effective communication skills and ideally hold a relevant mentoring and, or teaching qualification.

The training provider makes sure the mentor understands the role, is sufficiently prepared to carry it out and supported for the duration of the training programme.

## **Cervical screening assessor**

The cervical screening assessor ('assessor' from this point) provides an element of externality which is crucial to quality assuring the training and verifying the assessment process. The assessor is responsible for conducting the trainee's final clinical assessment.

The training provider is responsible for recruiting and inducting individuals to the role of assessor making sure they understand the role, are sufficiently prepared to carry it out and are consistent in their practice.

The assessor is external to the trainee's place of work. A mentor can take on the role of assessor for a trainee outside their own practice. The assessor must meet the same criteria as described for mentors.

The cervical screening mentor role and the cervical screening assessor roles are completely separate from the NMC 'academic assessor', 'practice supervisor' and 'practice assessor' educational roles.

### **Maintaining competence in the mentor and or assessor roles**

The training organisation provides a forum in which mentors and assessors can discuss any training issues with their peers and participate in standardisation activity to verify their compliance with the national guidance.

The training organisation provides an update (separate from the required 3 yearly update) for assessors and mentors to ensure they remain competent in their respective roles.

Mentors and assessors must undertake a formal cervical screening update at least every 3 years as a practising sample taker (refer to [section 3.22 below](#)).

In addition, mentors and assessors must:

- regularly attend and participate in the training provider's forum(s) to update and maintain competence in their respective roles
- stay updated with any local and or national changes to the cervical screening programme (including equipment and sample preparation)
- show continuing competence in taking cervical samples in accordance to their professional codes of conduct
- meet their professional obligations for continuing professional development (CPD)
- undertake continuous self-evaluation
- audit and reflect on their individual rates of abnormal test results and sample acceptance as reported by the local cervical screening laboratory (see [NHS CSP guidance on sample acceptance](#))