

# Cervical Screening Training Prospectus 2018-2019

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# Cervical Screening Training Prospectus 2018-2019

CervicalCheck doctors and nurses will be provided with training opportunities – initial and update – by the Programme on an ongoing basis to foster and maintain quality cervical screening.

## Introduction


CervicalCheck – The National Cervical Screening Programme is a quality assured, organised and population-based screening programme that is managed by the National Screening Service (NSS).

Cervical screening training has been identified as critical in the provision of a quality assured cervical screening programme to the women of Ireland.

CervicalCheck has developed and delivers accredited training programmes for health professionals in line with the recommendations of the 'Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Cervical Screening - Second Edition' (2014). The training opportunities available are provided in partnership with the Irish College of General Practitioners, the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (Nursing Faculty), University College Cork and the National University of Ireland Galway.

This training prospectus has been compiled as a useful resource for those interested in participating in cervical screening training for the academic year 2018-2019.

We hope that you will find a course suited to your learning needs. Places on courses are limited therefore early application is advisable.



Carol McNamara

National Screening Service (NSS) Training and Education Manager

CervicalCheck – The National Cervical Screening Programme

## Rationale for training of doctors and nurses

“All cervical smertakers should be appropriately trained. It is the duty of the doctor with clinical responsibility to ensure that all smertakers who take smear tests in their practice or clinic are appropriately trained and competent. This is a dynamic requirement as competence is not static. Smertakers should endeavour to attend a CervicalCheck smertaker training course during the first three to five years following the start of contract”

CervicalCheck Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Cervical Screening, Second Edition

## Benefits of training

### How the doctors and nurses benefit:

- Primary care contribution to meeting the minimum target of 80 per cent coverage in reducing the incidence of cervical cancer in Ireland
- Primary care contribution to a quality assured, competency-based cervical screening service
- Increase in uptake of cervical screening as doctors and nurses involved in training need to take additional screening tests for audit purposes
- Professional development and lifelong learning
- Doctors and nurses who undertake training have increased rates of Transformation Zone sampling post training
- Potential to audit cervical screening tests in practice

### How the woman benefits:

- Potential for better cervical screening experiences for women, with clear explanations provided and attention paid to their comfort
- Less risk of false reassurances to women as CervicalCheck trained doctors and nurses are more likely to sample the Transformation Zone (TZ), where the pre-cancerous lesions occur
- Effective training results in women having a better understanding of the importance of regular cervical screening tests and the benefits and limitations of screening
- As a result of CervicalCheck training, women are better prepared for the consequences of results and better prepared for follow-up

### Additional benefits:

- Cytology laboratories report improved quality of data input as a consequence of training, which results in greater likelihood that the correct screening history is linked to the correct woman – and less delay in receiving results
- Quality cervical screening training reduces the rate of inappropriate and unsatisfactory screening tests which may cause unnecessary referrals to colposcopy

## Aim of the cervical screening training programme

To provide core knowledge and development of the necessary technical and communication skills to enable doctors and nurses to deliver a quality cervical screening service to women.

## Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the training programme, the student will be able to:

- Understand the rationale behind cervical screening while recognising the importance of the criteria for early detection of cervical cancer
- Understand the relevant normal anatomy, physiology and cytopathology of the cervix and demonstrate competence in performing cervical screening tests
- Demonstrate the ability to produce and document, with appropriate history, a quality laboratory sample and dispatch it appropriately
- Interpret laboratory cervical screening test results accurately and apply screening recommendations as appropriate to each situation, with explanation of treatment options available for women who return abnormal screening tests or who have cervical cancer
- Maintain client comfort, safety and confidentiality
- Communicate effectively on all aspects of the cervical screening process
- Develop support and counselling skills in relation to client needs
- Effectively promote cervical screening
- Demonstrate their knowledge of CervicalCheck – The National Cervical Screening Programme

## Classroom-based and clinical setting

### Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) – Cervical screening training module for health professionals

This course consists of a one day classroom-based teaching followed by a review study day six to 12 weeks later and a further half day for written theory assessment – a total of two and a half study days.

The theory component of these courses is combined with the clinical skills component to achieve best practice standards in cervical screening. This course is usually completed within one academic year.

#### Details of clinical skills component\*

1. A CervicalCheck-appointed Clinical Trainer is assigned to each student to support the clinical aspects of training in the student's own clinical setting.
2. Best practice in taking a cervical screening test is demonstrated by the appointed Clinical Trainer who then supervises the taking of an average of three to four screening tests during the clinical visit.
3. The Clinical Trainer provides support during the training period as needed.
4. Clinical assessment in practice.
5. Submission of an audit of a minimum number of satisfactory training screening tests for quality analysis.
6. Assessment of client feedback.

“...the course and the training were excellent, extremely well presented and highly informative. The trainers facilitate in a way which allows the students to have one to one interactions while learning skills and knowledge which can be applied to their individual situations”

Therese Healy, Practice Nurse, completed RCSI course

\* To complete the clinical skills component on all courses the student needs to have access to a clinical setting (GP Practice, Family Planning or Well Woman Clinic) where the practical training will take place. The student must have written consent from the clinically responsible doctor and have permission to allow a CervicalCheck trainer to model and take **cervical screening tests** in their practice.

## Blended learning and clinical setting

### National University of Ireland Galway (NUI Galway) – Best practice in cervical screening

Blended learning combines the use of online learning technologies with traditional face-to-face sessions.

At NUI Galway, the interactive, web-based educational tool used to supplement or replace traditional classroom teaching is called Blackboard. This is a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) that supports online learning and teaching. The module Best Practice in Cervical Screening is delivered via Blackboard.

Online learning enables student-centred teaching approaches. Every student has their own way of learning that works best for them. Blended learning supports this and allows students to study at their own pace.

Students must also attend a one-day workshop at NUI Galway. Students will receive Blackboard training at the beginning of the module and are supported by online facilitators. The module consists of six online units. The module begins in September and is usually completed within six months.

This theory component is combined with the clinical skills component to achieve best practice standards in cervical screening.

### Details of clinical skills component\*

1. Attendance at a one-day workshop in NUI Galway.
2. A CervicalCheck-appointed Clinical Trainer is assigned to each student to support the clinical aspects of training in the student's own clinical setting.
3. Best practice in taking the test is demonstrated by the appointed Clinical Trainer who then supervises the taking of an average of three to four screening tests at the clinical visit.
4. The Clinical Trainer provides support during the training period as needed.
5. Clinical assessment in practice.
6. Submission of an audit of a minimum number of satisfactory training cervical screening tests for quality analysis.
7. Assessment of client feedback.

“The module provided a supportive learning environment and facilitated a discussion platform to learn from peers and share experience. On site supervision, training and assessment is hugely beneficial in assessing and evaluating clinical competence. Undertaking the module provides students with the tools to provide a quality screening service to all women and highlighted the importance of continually evaluating and auditing our practice. Overall the course was most useful for me and I looked at it as being an assessment of my practice and identified gaps in my own knowledge and area of practice that I need to improve on, thus enabling me to practice with confidence.”

Mary Kavanagh, Practice Nurse, completed NUI Galway Course

\* To complete the clinical skills component on all courses the student needs to have access to a clinical setting (GP Practice, Family Planning or Well Woman Clinic) where the practical training will take place. The student must have written consent from the clinically responsible doctor and have permission to allow a CervicalCheck trainer to model and **cervical screening tests** in their practice.

## University College Cork (UCC) – Evidence based cervical screening

A blended learning module, combining face-to-face contact sessions (workshops and lectures), independent learning, online learning material, peer online discussions and e-tivities and a clinical skills component.

Students must attend a 1.5 days workshop in UCC at the start of the course in January 2018. The components of the modules must be completed by June 2019.

The theory component is assessed by continuous assessment. This is a combination of clinical competence and continuous assessment including e-tivities.

### Details of clinical skills component\*

1. Attendance at a 1.5 days workshop in UCC Cork.
2. A CervicalCheck-appointed Clinical Trainer is assigned to each student to support the clinical aspects of training in the student's own clinical setting.
3. Best practice in taking the test is demonstrated by the appointed Clinical Trainer who then supervises the taking of an average of three to four cervical screening tests at the clinical visit.
4. The Clinical Trainer provides support during the training period as needed.
5. Clinical assessment in practice.
6. Submission of an audit of a minimum number of satisfactory training cervical screening tests for quality analysis.
7. Assessment of client feedback

\* To complete the clinical skills component on all courses the student needs to have access to a clinical setting (GP Practice, Family Planning or Well Woman Clinic) where the practical training will take place. The student must have written consent from the clinically responsible doctor and have permission to allow a CervicalCheck trainer to model and take **cervial screening tests** in their practice.



## E-learning and clinical setting

### Irish College of General Practitioners (ICGP) – Theory for cervical screening

The theory component will be delivered by the ICGP via E-learning. The course consists of six topics and is completed over 12 weeks. The course requires a time commitment of at least six hours per week. All work is completed at home, based on supplied material. Assessments will be submitted by email. IT support is available from the ICGP.

This can be taken as a stand-alone module or can be combined with the clinical skills component to achieve best practice standards in cervical screening. This combined course is usually completed within 24 weeks.

### Details of clinical skills component\*

1. Attendance at a one-day Clinical Skills workshop.
2. A CervicalCheck-appointed Clinical Trainer is assigned to each student to support the clinical aspects of training in the student's own clinical setting.
3. Best practice in taking the test is demonstrated by the appointed Clinical Trainer who then supervises the taking of an average of three to four cervical screening tests at the clinical visit.
4. The Clinical Trainer provides support during the training period as needed.
5. Clinical assessment in practice.
6. Submission of an audit of a minimum number of satisfactory cervical screening tests for quality analysis.
7. Assessment of client feedback.

"As a GP Principal I felt that the course brought me right up to date with all the aspects of the National Cervical Screening Programme, both in theory and in practice. It gave me full confidence when working with and supervising other smear takers in our practice (GP Trainees, locums, nursing staff, doing difficult smears etc.). A super course, I can only highly recommend it."

Dr Finnuala Brophy, completed ICGP course

\* To complete the clinical skills component on all courses the student needs to have access to a clinical setting (GP Practice, Family Planning or Well Woman Clinic) where the practical training will take place. The student must have written consent from the clinically responsible doctor and have permission to allow a CervicalCheck trainer to model and take **cervical screening test** in their practice.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is needed to apply for the course?

Course participants must be registered or eligible to be registered as a doctor or nurse with CervicalCheck, with access to a CervicalCheck registered practice. The course participant must provide evidence of support from their General Practitioner or Doctor Supervisor to undertake clinical supervision and support of the student during training. It is a course requirement that students take sufficient cervical screening tests during their clinical training to become effective, competent and safe in taking of cervical screening tests.

### How do I apply for the course?

1. Review the courses outlined in this prospectus and choose the training course best suited to your personal and professional needs. Cervical Screening Training Unit staff are available to discuss training courses on 061 406564/406565 or alternatively you may contact the relevant college for more information.
2. Complete the relevant application form, ensuring all sections are complete. Please note all students are required to be registered with CervicalCheck before the clinical skills component commences.
3. Return the application form and course fee to the relevant college. On receipt of the completed application form, notification of course placement will be issued as soon as possible thereafter.

### How long does the training last?

The duration of training varies depending on which course type is chosen (see course outlines for specifics). In general, the theory and clinical skills components of the courses are completed within 24 weeks. Course participants may sometimes need to take in excess of 20 screening tests to achieve competency. A significant time and energy commitment is required by all students undertaking training.

### How much does it cost?

Course fees are outlined in the Course Calendar 2018-2019. They are correct at time of print but may be subject to change. Course fees are determined by the college partner. The college partner is the recipient of course fees and fees are paid directly to the chosen college.

### What support is available for e-learning participants?

For students undertaking the ICGP Theory Course for Smartakers, training is provided by the E-learning Unit prior to commencement of the course. Basic computer literacy is essential for this course. For those with minimal computer skills, pre-course training is provided free of charge by the ICGP E-learning Unit. For further details, refer to contact listing for Jana Pickard, ICGP.

### What clinical support structures are in place?

Irrespective of experience, all students' first recorded cervical screening tests should be taken at their Clinical Trainer's initial visit. All students are appointed a Clinical Trainer who facilitates and supports the students' training in clinical practice. The trainer will model a cervical screening test and supervise the taking of further tests. Following this, the student requires the clinical supervision and support of the GP/doctor for an agreed minimum number of cervical screening tests. The Clinical Trainer will return, if necessary, to do a follow up assessment and review overall progress and competency.

Experienced doctors and nurses who currently provide a cervical screening test service to women may continue to do so, but for training/audit purposes the above criteria will still apply.

## What recognition is awarded for the cervical screening training programme?

The Cervical Screening Training Programme has been awarded National University of Ireland (NUI) accreditation for RCSI and NUI Galway modules. Credits for these modules can be used towards other academic programmes.

The RCSI/NUI Galway module equates to 250 hours of learning in lecture content time, self-directed learning and course work assessment. This is equivalent to a credit rating of 10 European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) credits. The RCSI module is also approved for Category 2 award with NMBI. A certificate of accreditation is issued from the School of Nursing and Midwifery NUI Galway and School of Nursing and Midwifery, RCSI and CervicalCheck - The National Cervical Screening Programme on successful completion. Students undertaking the module Best Practice in Cervical Screening or Cervical Screening training module for health professionals may also be eligible for an exemption should they apply for other postgraduate programmes in NUI Galway/RCSI.

The UCC module equates to 200 hours of learning combining blended learning, online and face-to-face contact sessions (workshops and lectures), independent learning, online learning material, peer online discussions and activities and clinical visits. This is equivalent to a credit rating of 10 European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) credits. A certificate of accreditation is issued from University College Cork and CervicalCheck - The National Cervical Screening Programme on successful completion.

The ICGP theory course is eligible for 12 sessions of study leave. It is also approved for Competence Assurance Structure (CAS) Credits. A certificate of completion from CervicalCheck is issued upon successful completion of the clinical component of the Cervical Screening Training Programme.

## What support or training is there available to doctors?

Doctors taking screening test or taking responsibility for Cervical Screening in the practice must ensure that all doctors and nurses taking cervical screening test are competent.

To equip and update the doctor with the necessary skills and knowledge, CervicalCheck can suggest the following:

- ICGP Theory Course for Cervical Screening with clinical training sessions – six modules by E-learning plus one day clinical training
- Attendance at RCSI, UCC or NUI Galway Cervical Screening Training Course
- At a doctor's request, CervicalCheck can provide one-to-one support for addressing quality issues
- Trainee GPs are offered support in cervical screening via the vocational GP training schemes. Each GP training scheme can avail of a specially designed resource pack for educational use. CervicalCheck offers the opportunity to GP trainees to have free certified training. To fulfil the criteria of certification, GP trainees must:
  - Complete the theory session(s) as specified in the GP Trainee Resource Pack. GP training schemes must certify the theory component has been completed with evidence of dates
  - Complete a clinical audit with a CervicalCheck Clinical Trainer, available through the Cervical Screening Training Unit by contacting 061 406564/406565

Continual professional development is supported by the provision of cervical screening updates nationally. Details of all training developments and Clinical Update schedules are available on [www.cervicalcheck.ie](http://www.cervicalcheck.ie).

## Cervical Screening training programmes – course calendar 2018-2019

Commencement Date	Location	Fee
Best practice in cervical screening National University of Ireland, Galway	6 September 2018	NUIG €550
Cervical Screening training module for health professionals (RCSI)	12 September 2018	Dublin €550
Cervical Screening training module for health professionals (RCSI)	11 October 2018	Portlaoise €550
Clinical skills workshop for ICGP Cervical screening course	16 November 2018	Athlone €650 €550**
Evidence based cervical screening (UCC)	7 and 8 January 2019	UCC Cork €550*
Clinical skills workshop for ICGP Cervical screening course	1 March 2019	Dublin €650 €550**
Clinical skills workshop for ICGP Cervical screening course	TBC May 2019	TBC €650 €550**

\* UCC course

There is an additional €35 student registration fee charged by UCC

\*\* ICGP courses

Member Fee €550 (including practice nurses who are attached to practice where GP Principal is ICGP Member)

All courses are subject to minimum/maximum attendance requirement

## Contact List

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The National Screening Service is part of the Health and Wellbeing Division of the Health Service Executive. It encompasses BreastCheck – The National Breast Screening Programme, CervicalCheck – The National Cervical Screening Programme, BowelScreen – The National Bowel Screening Programme and Diabetic RetinaScreen – The National Diabetic Retinal Screening Programme.