



# **CervicalCheck**

## **Screening Training Unit**

### **Schedule of Learning Events**

#### **January to June 2024**



**Clare Lake, Claremorris, Co. Mayo, Ireland.**

**Picture taken by Dr Rachael Comer**

## Foreword

### “Empowering Excellence in Cervical Screening Education”

On behalf of the CervicalCheck Screening Training Unit (STU) team, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the schedule of learning events for the period of January to June 2024. The purpose of this document is to present the prospectus of cervical screening education programmes and the schedule of webinars.

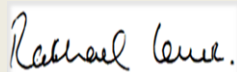
Cervical screening education is the bedrock of ensuring that every step of our mission is embedded in evidence-based research underpinned by the HSE values of Care, Compassion, Trust, and Learning. We are committed to upholding the principles of safety, effectiveness, a person-centred approach, efficiency, and equity in all that we do.

Cervical screening education is the cornerstone upon which we build a quality-assured cervical screening programme. All sample takers should complete an accredited cervical screening education programme and, as per the national contract for delivery of a cervical screening service, all sample takers must complete at least one clinical update every three years. Currently, we have two standalone clinical updates on the National Screening Service online eLearning portal ([NSSresources.ie](https://nssresources.ie)). There are several supporting documents and educational presentations on the CervicalCheck website [Health professionals \(cervicalcheck.ie\)](https://cervicalcheck.ie)

As we embark on this educational journey together, I invite you to immerse yourself in the upcoming webinars, explore our educational resources, and take full advantage of this opportunity for growth. Education empowers women to make informed choices about their health leading to more equitable uptake of screening, better health outcomes and potentially saving lives by ultimately reducing the incidence of cervical cancer.

Teaching is more than imparting  
knowledge, it is inspiring change.

William Arthur Ward



Dr Rachael Comer  
Education and Training Manager,  
CervicalCheck Screening Training Unit.

## The Screening Training Unit's Team members

Name	Title	Geographic Area	Number	Email
Dr Rachael Comer	Education and Training Manager	National	(087)3945855	<a href="mailto:Rachael.Comer@screeningservice.ie">Rachael.Comer@screeningservice.ie</a>
Ms. Nessa Louise McKee	Senior Training Coordinator	Donegal/Monaghan North Sligo/Cavan/ North Leitrim	(087)2054303	<a href="mailto:Nessa-Louise.Mckee@screeningservice.ie">Nessa-Louise.Mckee@screeningservice.ie</a>
Ms. Debbie Ramsbottom	Senior Training Coordinator	Laois/Offaly/West Meath	(087)2814146	<a href="mailto:Debbie.Ramsbottom@screeningservice.ie">Debbie.Ramsbottom@screeningservice.ie</a>
Ms. Selena Igoe	Clinical Trainer	Laois/Kildare/Carlow/ Kilkenny	(087)3598883	<a href="mailto:Selena.Igoe@screeningservice.ie">Selena.Igoe@screeningservice.ie</a>
Ms. Mary Cashen	Clinical Trainer	Tipperary/Offaly/ East Galway	(087)3926437	<a href="mailto:Mary.Cashen@screeningservice.ie">Mary.Cashen@screeningservice.ie</a>
Ms. Geraldine Gleasure	Clinical Trainer	North Dublin/Meath/Louth	(087)1821216	<a href="mailto:Geraldine.Gleasure@screeningservice.ie">Geraldine.Gleasure@screeningservice.ie</a>
Ms. Moira Noone	Clinical Trainer	Mayo	(087)3679068	<a href="mailto:Moira.Noone@screeningservice.ie">Moira.Noone@screeningservice.ie</a>
Ms. Sinead Griffin	Clinical Trainer	South Leitrim/ Co. Sligo/ Roscommon/Longford	(087)7458707	<a href="mailto:Sinead.Griffin@screeningservice.ie">Sinead.Griffin@screeningservice.ie</a>
Ms. Dorothy Nevin	Clinical Trainer	Limerick/Galway/Clare	(087)0577393	<a href="mailto:Dorothy.Nevin@screeningservice.ie">Dorothy.Nevin@screeningservice.ie</a>
Ms. Fiona Noone	Clinical Trainer	Wexford/Wicklow, South Dublin/NE Kildare	(087)1633294	<a href="mailto:Fiona.noone@screeningservice.ie">Fiona.noone@screeningservice.ie</a>
Ms. Michelle McKenna	Clinical Trainer	Cork/Kerry	(087)9277503	<a href="mailto:Michelle.mckenna@screeningservice.ie">Michelle.mckenna@screeningservice.ie</a>
Ms. Joyce Laffey	Clinical Trainer	East Cork/Waterford	(087)3368607	<a href="mailto:Joyce.laffey@screeningservice.ie">Joyce.laffey@screeningservice.ie</a>
Ms Christine Williams	Clinical Trainer	Waterford	087 7698940	<a href="mailto:Christine.williams@screeningservice.ie">Christine.williams@screeningservice.ie</a>
Ms. Katie Dunlea	Staff Officer	Limerick Head Office	(061)406508	<a href="mailto:Katie.dunlea@screeningservice.ie">Katie.dunlea@screeningservice.ie</a>

## Cervical Screening Education Programmes

CervicalCheck's Screening Training Unit offers two pathways to achieving cervical screening accreditation. The STU delivers education in partnership with three Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and through our own education programme, which is tailored to the needs of both novice and experienced sampletakers. Here's a step-by-step guide to get you on the right path:

1. **Create an Account:** To begin your educational journey, please create an account on our e-learning portal, which can be found [www.nssresources.ie](http://www.nssresources.ie). It's crucial to use your correct NMBI/MCRN PIN as this will serve as your unique identifier within CervicalCheck.
2. **Login and Explore:** Once you have your account set up, log in and navigate to the "Application Process" section, which provides an overview of your available options.
3. **Course Details:**
  - **Novice Education Course:** This includes both theoretical and clinical components. The theoretical component is completed online and at a face-to-face 3-hour clinical workshop, and the clinical component is undertaken in your workplace. This course usually has a closing date approximately four weeks before the clinical workshop (see locations of clinical workshop below).
  - **Experienced Education Course:** This programme is open for applications throughout the year, and the theoretical component is delivered entirely online and the clinical component is undertaken in your place of work.

**For the novice cervical screening programme, the clinical workshops will take place in the following locations:**

Locations	Dates
St Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny	18/01/2024
National Screening Service Central Office, Parnell Street, Dublin	08/02/2024
Primary & Mental Health Centre, Townparks, Carrick on Shannon	13/03/2024
Roselawn House, University Business Complex, Limerick	02/04/2024
National Screening Service Central Office, Parnell Street, Dublin	15/05/2024
Centre of Midwifery Education (CME) Cork University Maternity Hospital (CUMH)	03/09/2024
National Screening Service Central Office, Parnell Street, Dublin	10/10/2024

Cervical Screening Education Provider Name	Programme Duration	Award on Successful Completion of Education Programme	Application Link to find form <i>Ctrl+click to follow link</i>
CervicalCheck STU Cervical Screening Education for Novice Sampletakers	3 months – 1 year	Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) Category 1 Approval, 30 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) Irish College of General Practitioners (ICGP) Recognition of learning 30 CPD credits	<a href="#">Final Novice Application form</a>
CervicalCheck STU Cervical Screening Education for Experienced Sampletakers	3 months – 1 year	NMBI Category 1, 27 CEUs ICGP 27 CPD credits	<a href="#">Final Experienced Application Form</a>
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Academic year	10 European Credit Transfer System (ECTS), Level 9 Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)	<a href="#">Cervical Screening – Dublin or Athlone RCSI</a>
University College Cork	Academic year	10 European Credit Transfer System (ECTS), Level 9 Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)	<a href="#">ENU6158 Evidence Based Cervical Screening University College Cork</a>
University of Galway	Academic year	10 European Credit Transfer System (ECTS), Level 9 Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)	<a href="#">Best Practice in Cervical Smear Taking University of Galway</a>

**Please email [STU@cervicalcheck.ie](mailto:STU@cervicalcheck.ie) if you have any queries.**

# Monthly Schedule of Learning Events


January 2024	Speaker	Date and Time	Link to register
Cervical Cancer: Exploring Diagnosis and Treatment Strategies	Dr Michael O'Leary, Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist, GUH.	Wednesday 24th January 1-2pm	<a href="#">Cervical Cancer: Exploring Diagnosis and Treatment Strategies</a>
February 2024	Speaker	Date and Time	Link to register
Navigating life after an HIV diagnosis: Expert guidance and support	Prof Fiona Lyons, Consultant in Genitourinary Medicine, HSE Clinical Lead in Sexual Health	Tuesday 06 <sup>th</sup> February 1-2pm	<a href="#">Navigating life after an HIV diagnosis: Expert guidance and support</a>
Expertise from Colposcopy: A deep dive into the cervix	Dr Matt Hewitt, Consultant Gynaecological Oncologist, Cork University Maternity Hospital	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 1-2pm	<a href="#">Expertise from Colposcopy: A deep dive into the cervix</a>
March 2024	Speaker	Date and Time	Link to register
Cervical Screening for menopausal Women	Dr Ciara McCarthy, ICGP/HSE GP Clinical Lead in Women's Health	Wednesday 06 <sup>th</sup> March 1-2pm	<a href="#">Cervical Screening for menopausal Women</a>
Unravelling Cervical Screening Eligibility: Frequently Asked Questions	Dr Sarah Fitzgibbon, Primary Care Advisor, CervicalCheck	Tuesday 19th March 1-2pm	<a href="#">Unravelling Cervical Screening Eligibility: Frequently Asked Questions</a>
April 2024	Speaker	Date and Time	Link to register
Promoting sexual wellbeing: encouraging open conversations	Prof Fiona Lyons, Consultant in Genitourinary Medicine, HSE Clinical Lead in Sexual Health	Tuesday 09 <sup>th</sup> April 1-2pm	<a href="#">Promoting sexual wellbeing: encouraging open conversations</a>
Fostering engagement in cervical screening: Encouraging participation	Dr Sarah Fitzgibbon, Primary Care Advisor, CervicalCheck. Ms Lynn Swinburne Senior Health Promotion Officer, National Screening Service	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 1-2pm	<a href="#">Fostering engagement in cervical screening: Encouraging participation</a>

May 2024	Speaker	Date and Time	Link to register
Making informed choices: Identifying situations where screening tests may not be necessary.	Dr Sarah Fitzgibbon, Primary Care Advisor, CervicalCheck	Tuesday 07 <sup>th</sup> May 1-2pm	<a href="#">Making informed choices: Identifying situations where screening tests may not be necessary</a>
Sample to result: The journey of a screening sample inside the Screening Laboratory	Ms Aisling O'Connor, Laboratory Manager, National Cervical Screening Laboratory	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> May 1-2pm	<a href="#">Sample to result: The journey of a screening sample inside the Screening Laboratory</a>
June 2024	Speaker	Date and Time	Link to register
Recognising the link between Cervical Cancer and smoking and offering referral pathways	Dr Paul Kavanagh, Specialist in Public Health Medicine, Public Health Adviser to HSE Tobacco Free Ireland Programme	Tuesday 04 <sup>th</sup> June 1-2pm	<a href="#">Recognising the link between Cervical Cancer and smoking and offering referral pathways</a>


**Please note:**

All webinars will be live and interactive with time allocated to answer questions. The majority of events will be **recorded**. If you are unable to attend the live event, once you have registered, you will be sent a link to access the recording of the webinar at your convenience. CPD/CEU credits can only be awarded if you attend the entire live webinar.


## Cervical Cancer: Exploring Diagnosis and Treatment Strategies

<b>Date</b>	Wednesday 24th January 2024
<b>Time</b>	1pm – 2pm
<b>Speaker</b>	Dr Michael O’Leary, Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist, GUH.
<b>Aim</b>	To empower attendees with knowledge and insights to enhance their ability to recognise symptoms and signs of cervical cancer, and to refer appropriately for diagnosis and treatment, ultimately contributing to improved patient outcomes and the reduction of cervical cancer's impact on women's health.
<b>Learning outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gain a deep understanding of the epidemiology, risk factors, and the global burden of cervical cancer</li><li>• Be aware of different types of cervical cancer and the staging classification of cervical cancer</li><li>• Examine the range of treatment modalities for cervical cancer, including surgery, radiation therapy, and chemotherapy, and understand the factors influencing treatment choice.</li><li>• Explore emerging targeted therapies and providing insights into the latest advancements and their potential impact on outcomes</li><li>• Recognise the significance of a multidisciplinary approach in managing cervical cancer cases, and understand the roles of different healthcare professionals in providing holistic care.</li></ul>
<b>Please click on the link to register</b>	<a href="#">Cervical Cancer: Exploring Diagnosis and Treatment Strategies</a>
<b>QR code</b>	


## Navigating life after an HIV diagnosis: Expert guidance and support

<b>Date</b>	Tuesday 06 <sup>th</sup> February
<b>Time</b>	1pm – 2pm
<b>Speaker</b>	Prof Fiona Lyons, Consultant in Genitourinary Medicine HSE Clinical Lead in Sexual Health
<b>Aim</b>	To understand the impact of an HIV diagnosis on a person's cervical screening needs.
<b>Learning outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gain understanding of the prevalence of HIV in both Ireland and on a global scale</li><li>• Identify the diagnosis pathway for HIV and recognise the importance of early detection</li><li>• Understand the impact of HIV infection on HPV transmission and persistence</li><li>• Demonstrate improved knowledge of HIV-related health issues, with a particular focus on the importance of cervical screening for individuals living with HIV, and the available support services.</li></ul>
<b>Please click on the link to register</b>	<a href="#">Navigating life after an HIV diagnosis: Expert guidance and support</a>
<b>QR code</b>	


## Expertise from Colposcopy: A deep dive into the cervix

<b>Date</b>	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> February
<b>Time</b>	1pm – 2pm
<b>Speaker</b>	Dr Matt Hewitt, Consultant Gynaecological Oncologist, Cork University Maternity Hospital.
<b>Aim</b>	To understand the management of cervical anomalies and their appropriate referral pathways.
<b>Learning outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To understand the anatomy and physiology of the cervix</li><li>• To recognise the normal cervix and anomalies of the cervix</li><li>• To be aware of the appropriate referral pathway and the management of anomalies of the cervix</li><li>• To recognise the potentially cancerous cervix and how to refer appropriately</li><li>• To identify red flag cervical signs and understand the guidelines for appropriate referrals, facilitating prompt diagnostic testing</li><li>• Be aware of local gynaecological and colposcopy services, promoting awareness of available resources and support.</li></ul>
<b>Please click on the link to register</b>	<a href="#">Expertise from Colposcopy: A deep dive into the cervix</a>
<b>QR code</b>	


## Cervical Screening for menopausal Women

<b>Date</b>	Wednesday 06 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
<b>Time</b>	1pm – 2pm
<b>Speaker</b>	Dr Ciara McCarthy - ICGP/HSE GP Clinical Lead in Women's Health.
<b>Aim</b>	To explore the unique challenges and considerations of offering cervical screening to women over 50 years of age, with a particular focus on understanding menopausal symptoms and their impact on screening.
<b>Learning outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To recognise genito-urinary syndrome (GSM) symptoms associated with menopause</li><li>• To identify the cervical screening challenges in the menopause and to offer practical advice on how to manage these challenges</li><li>• To recognise the importance of promotion of screening in the over 50's.</li></ul>
<b>Please click on the link to register</b>	<a href="#">Cervical Screening for menopausal Women</a>
<b>QR code</b>	


## Unravelling Cervical Screening Eligibility: Frequently Asked Questions

<b>Date</b>	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
<b>Time</b>	1pm – 2pm
<b>Speaker</b>	Dr Sarah Fitzgibbon, Primary Care Advisor, CervicalCheck
<b>Aim</b>	To explain the eligibility framework for CervicalCheck and discuss the rationale for special clinical circumstances which require alternative screening intervals.
<b>Learning outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understand the rationale for the eligibility criteria and screening intervals</li><li>• Recognise additional screening needs and exceptions</li><li>• Understand the circumstances where cervical screening is not recommended</li><li>• Be aware of the appropriate time intervals for repeat testing and post-pregnancy, and the rationale for this</li><li>• Consider various clinical scenarios, and recognise and manage situations which may fall outside of the eligibility framework.</li></ul>
<b>Please click on the link to register</b>	<a href="#">Unravelling Cervical Screening Eligibility: Frequently Asked Questions</a>
<b>QR code</b>	


## Promoting sexual wellbeing: encouraging open conversations

<b>Date</b>	Tuesday 09 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
<b>Time</b>	1pm – 2pm
<b>Speaker</b>	Prof Fiona Lyons, Consultant in Genitourinary Medicine, HSE Clinical Lead in Sexual Health.
<b>Aim</b>	To promote awareness and acceptance of sexual health, with a specific focus on cervical screening, as an integral part of our overall health throughout our lifetime by fostering open conversations.
<b>Learning outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be aware of the National Sexual Health Strategy and its key priorities</li><li>• Have greater awareness that people are sexual beings through their life course and have needs with regard to sexual health</li><li>• To encourage open and honest dialogue to promote positive sexual health and cervical screening and create a safe space for discussions</li><li>• To encourage and enable health care providers to incorporate sexual health promotion and open discussion on screening requirements</li><li>• To empower individuals to protect and enhance their own sexual wellbeing by delivery of evidence-based information by health care professionals.</li></ul>
<b>Please click on the link to register</b>	<a href="#">Promoting sexual wellbeing: encouraging open conversations</a>
<b>QR code</b>	


## Fostering Engagement in Cervical Screening: Encouraging participation

<b>Date</b>	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April
<b>Time</b>	1pm – 2pm
<b>Speaker</b>	Dr Sarah Fitzgibbon, Primary Care Advisor, CervicalCheck Ms Lynn Swinburne, Senior Health Promotion Officer, National Screening Service.
<b>Aim</b>	To support sampletakers in encouraging the eligible population to participate in cervical screening.
<b>Learning outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To understand the strategies for increasing participation in cervical screening in primary care</li> <li>• To understand the barriers that hinder participation and attendance for cervical screening, such as misconceptions, cultural factors, and logistical challenges</li> <li>• To be aware of the supports and resources that are available to sampletakers in promoting cervical screening</li> <li>• To recognise the importance of making every opportunity to promote cervical screening during routine healthcare encounters increasing the likelihood of participation</li> <li>• To promote equity and equality in the delivery of cervical screening with a focus on addressing disparities in access and participation across various population groups.</li> </ul>
<b>Please click on the link to register</b>	<a href="#">Fostering engagement in cervical screening: Encouraging participation</a>
<b>QR code</b>	

**Making informed choices: Identifying situations where screening tests may not be necessary.**

<b>Date</b>	Tuesday 07 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
<b>Time</b>	1pm – 2pm
<b>Speaker</b>	Dr Sarah Fitzgibbon, Primary Care Advisor, CervicalCheck
<b>Aim</b>	To provide healthcare professionals with the knowledge and critical thinking skills to determine when a screening test may not be necessary or appropriate
<b>Learning outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand eligibility criteria and rationale for screening</li> <li>• To be aware of the most up to date evidence on when not to screen</li> <li>• To understand the risks associated with over-screening and out-of-programme cycle screening</li> <li>• Evaluate the benefits, limitations, and potential risks of a screening programme</li> </ul>
<b>Please click on the link to register</b>	<a href="#">Making informed choices: Identifying situations where screening tests may not be necessary</a>
<b>QR code</b>	

## Sample to result: The journey of a screening sample Inside the Screening Laboratory

<b>Date</b>	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
<b>Time</b>	1pm – 2pm
<b>Speaker</b>	Aisling O'Connor, Laboratory Manager, National Cervical Screening Laboratory
<b>Aim</b>	To provide insights into the various processes, procedures, and quality controls involved in transforming a screening sample into a final result within the cervical screening quality-assured laboratory.
<b>Learning outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gain a comprehensive understanding of the step-by-step process that a screening sample undergoes within the screening laboratory, from collection to analysis, including sample preparation, handling, and testing</li> <li>• To be aware of the quality assurance standards associated with a sample from arrival to result</li> <li>• To understand the role of automation and technology in modern screening laboratories, showcasing how these advancements streamline the sample-to-result process, enhance efficiency, and reduce human error</li> <li>• Understanding the common challenges and potential issues that may arise during the sample processing journey.</li> </ul>
<b>Please click on the link to register</b>	<a href="#">Sample to result: The journey of a screening sample inside the Screening Laboratory</a>
<b>QR Code</b>	

## Recognising the link between Cervical Cancer and smoking and offering referral pathways

<b>Date</b>	Tuesday 04 <sup>th</sup> June 2024
<b>Time</b>	1pm – 2pm
<b>Speaker</b>	Dr Paul Kavanagh, Specialist in Public Health Medicine, Public Health Adviser to HSE Tobacco Free Ireland Programme.
<b>Aim</b>	The provide an update on the link between cervical cancer and HPV and referral pathways to smoking cessation.
<b>Learning outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the link between tobacco smoking and a higher risk of developing cell changes and cervical cancer</li> <li>• Understand how smoking weakens the immune system response to HR-HPV infection and the effect of the various toxins within cigarettes on cervical cells</li> <li>• Understand the key recommendations contained within the new NCEC Stop Smoking Clinical Guideline, the referral pathway to stop smoking services and what support intensive stop smoking services provide.</li> </ul>
<b>Please click on the link to register</b>	<a href="#">Recognising the link between Cervical Cancer and smoking and offering referral pathways</a>
<b>QR code</b>	