

South West Regional Cytology Training Centre

**Annual Report
2019 - 20**

The South West Regional Cytology Training Centre is located within North Bristol NHS Trust.

**This Annual report covers the period:
1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020**

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1. Overview of the Training Centre

The Training Centre was established in 1990 to provide mandatory training for cytology laboratory staff working within National Health Service Cervical Screening Programme (NHSCSP) laboratories within the South West of England.

Today we offer mandatory training to cytology lab staff but we also have an extensive range of other courses on offer. We also offer training and updating for cervical sample takers and colposcopy staff.

Our training courses are free to staff working within NHSCSP cytology labs in the South West of England.

We have been fortunate over the years to have welcomed staff from elsewhere in England and the UK, as well as from further afield.

We pride ourselves with offering a warm and friendly welcome to all course members, and our aim is to ensure that our courses are varied and interesting, and that our teaching is of a high standard.

The training centre is affiliated to the cytology laboratory based at Southmead Hospital.

2. The Training Centre Team

Director

Dr Karin Denton re-joined the Training Centre as Director in June 2018. She is also Consultant Pathologist working within the cytology department at Southmead Hospital.

Manager

Helen Burrell has been Manager of the Training Centre since 2001. She is also a Consultant Biomedical Scientist working within the cytology department at Southmead Hospital.

Deputy Manager

Helen Hoskins has been Deputy Manager since 2003. She is also a senior Biomedical Scientist working within the cytology department at Southmead Hospital.

Administrator

Louise Storie joined the Training Centre as Administrator in January 2014.

3. Training Courses Offered

Gynaecological Cytology Courses

The following courses are offered each year to laboratory staff:

Basic Courses in Gynaecological Cytology

- Introductory Course
- Follow-up course
- Prep Course for the Diploma in Cervical Cytology

Update Courses in Gynaecological Cytology

- 1-day Update for non-medical staff
- 1-day update for Consultant staff

The following courses are offered subject to demand

- LBC System Conversion Courses
- One-day refresher courses
- Gynaecological Pathology for Colposcopists in Training
- Gynaecological Histology for cytology staff
- Cervical cytology course for trainee pathologists

Non - Gynaecological Courses

The following one-day courses were offered to laboratory technical staff:

- FNA Cytology
- Urine Cytology
- Serous Fluid Cytology
- Respiratory Cytology
- Non-gynae course for trainee pathologists

4. Course Details

4.1 Staff In Training: Laboratory non-medical staff

Any trainee staff wanting to become qualified to screen cervical samples must complete the NHSCSP Diploma in Cervical Cytology. During the training period the following mandatory courses must be attended.

Introductory Course in Gynaecological Cytology

This twenty-day course is mandatory for trainees who are taking the NHSCSP Diploma in Cervical Cytology. The syllabus follows that approved by the NHSCSP and contains a minimum of 80 hours microscopy time.

Some examples of topics covered during the course include the normal cervical sample and commonly encountered infections, the concept and pathology of squamous cervical abnormalities, adenocarcinoma of the female genital tract and quality issues within the NHSCSP.

Follow up to Introductory Course

This comprises 5 days of training provided at intervals following attendance at the introductory course. The course is offered in blocks of three and two days during the training period after attending the introductory course. This course is designed to monitor the individual's progress and provide suggestions to the laboratory regarding in-house training.

Prep Course for the Diploma in Cervical Cytology

This three-day course is exclusively designed for individuals preparing to undertake the exit examination to obtain the Diploma in Cervical Cytology. The course contains lectures, microscopy sessions, question & answer sessions and a mock examination, designed to demonstrate both the format of the examination and the skills and attributes required for its successful completion. The course covers specific topics selected from the NHSCSP Training Log and includes discussion and feedback on examination technique and performance.

4.2 Staff In Training: Laboratory medical staff

We offer two one-week courses for medical staff in their first year of cytology training, plus two separate more specialised and examination focused courses for more experienced trainees.

Cervical Cytology for Trainee Pathologists

This three-day course is designed for trainee pathologists preparing to take the Certificate of Higher Cervical Cytology Training (CHCCT). The course combines lectures and workshops covering various aspects of gynaecological cytology. This course is offered twice per year to fit in with CHCCT examinations.

Non-Gynaecological Cytology for Trainee Pathologists

This four-day course is designed for trainee pathologists preparing to take the FRCPATH examination. The course combines lectures and workshops covering various aspects of non-gynaecological cytology.

This course is now offered twice per year to fit in with FRCPATH examinations.

4.3 Courses for Qualified Laboratory Staff

Mandatory Update Courses

All non-medical staff who screen, check or report cervical cytology must attend a minimum of three days of update training every three years. Although various courses and conferences are offered to cytology staff, the only courses that are recognised by the NHSCSP as official update courses are those held at an accredited cytology training centre.

Our training centre offers the following mandatory courses to cytology staff.

Update Course in Gynaecological Cytology

This course is designed to inform and update qualified staff working in cytology about developments in cervical cytology and the NHSCSP, and to re-evaluate the morphology and criteria for evaluating the more difficult smears. Attendance at 3-days of update training every three years enables staff to meet their professional requirements for continuing professional development. Topics covered during this period included HPV/Metaplasia/Crowded groups/atrophy and cancer audit

One-Day Update in Cervical Cytology for Consultant Pathologists, Consultant BMS's and holders of the ASD in Cervical Cytology

This one-day update provides a lecture and workshops dedicated to challenging and difficult cervical samples, intended for staff that report cervical cytology. Topics included borderline changes and cancer audit.

In addition to the mandatory update courses, the training centre also offers upon request other courses in gynaecological cytology for qualified staff.

LBC System Conversion Course

This is a one-day course designed for individuals who are already trained in Surepath LBC system, but need to convert to screen Thin Prep samples. During the day, individuals are introduced to the main differences between the 2 systems, both in preparation and morphology. Attendees are given a 200-slide test set to take back to their laboratories for completion following this course.

At the training centre we aim to provide training and support to labs, and we do our best to accommodate their needs. If required we are able to offer a tailored course to accommodate the needs of an individual who has been identified as requiring extra support and training.

Advanced Specialist Diploma in Cervical Cytology

Individuals wishing to receive some training and support towards qualifications such as the advanced specialist diploma in cervical cytology should contact us to arrange some suitable training.

Other Courses for Laboratory Staff

Non-Gynaecological Courses

FNA Cytology for Technical Staff
Urine Cytology for Technical Staff
Serous Fluid Cytology for Technical Staff
Respiratory Cytology for Technical Staff

This series of one-day course is designed to give a basic introduction and background to the cytology of the various sites. The courses consist of a series of lectures, workshops and multi-header sessions.

Gynaecological Histology for Technical Staff

This one-day course is designed to give a basic introduction to gynaecological histology. It includes normal and abnormal histology covered by lectures and workshops.

4.4 Courses for Colposcopy Staff

Gynaecological Pathology for Colposcopists in Training

This two-day course is designed for specialist registrars in Gynaecology, and trainee nurse Colposcopists wishing to become accredited as colposcopists. The course is composed of lectures and workshops covering all main aspects of gynaecological cytology and histology.

All of these courses are free to staff working within the South West Region. Course fees will apply to staff from other regions. Further details including course fees are available on the training centre website.

Staff can book places by visiting the Training Centre website (www.cytology-training.co.uk) or by contacting the Training Centre administrator directly.

4.5 Courses for Cervical Sample Takers

As part of ongoing quality measures within the cervical screening programme, the Cytology Training Centre offers training and update course for cervical sample takers working within the Avon Cervical Screening Programme.

Sample Takers Initial 2 day course

This 2-day RCN accredited course is designed for sample takers in training and is suitable for both nurses and doctors. The course delivers information as specified in the 2016 PHE guidance for training cervical sample takers.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cervical-screening-cervical-sample-taker-training>.

Sample takers in training are assigned an external assessor and their cervical samples are monitored for the presence of transformation zone sampling. They are required to complete the remainder of the training within a 12-month period in order to obtain a certificate of completion.

Condensed Core Foundation Course for Trainee GP's

This half-day course is for trainee GP's wishing to gain up to date knowledge about the screening programme, cytology and management of patients. There is also a practical element and a colposcopy session. This course will enable them to obtain a sample taker code.

Further details of sample taker course are available on the training centre website.

Staff can book places by visiting the Training Centre website (www.cytology-training.co.uk) or by contacting the Training Centre administrator directly.

5. Training Centre Activity

The Training Centre offered a range of courses for scientific and medical laboratory and Colposcopy staff working in the South West Region and in other areas, in addition to delivering training and update courses for Cervical Sample Takers working within the Avon Cervical Screening Programme.

Below is a summary of courses offered together with numbers of staff attending. Our figures include courses held between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020.

Course Title	Course Dates	Participants	Total Courses	Total Participants
1-day Update Course in Gynaecological Cytology	2 May	7	5	31
	17 Oct	8		
HPV/Cancer Audit	3 Dec	4		
	5 March	4		
	10 March	8		
Preparatory Course In Cervical Cytology	29-30 April 19	1	1	1
*Half Day Condensed Core Foundation Course for Trainee GP's – Sample Taker Training	11 April	14	4	32
	10 July	4		
	17 July	4		
	3 October	10		
1-day Update in Cervical Cytology for Pathologists & Consultant BMS's	6 June	4	1	4
Cervical Cytology for ST1 staff	18-22 Nov	5	1	5

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Course Title	Course Dates	Participants	Total Courses	Total Participants
2-day Cervical Sample Taker Training	13-14 May 16-17 September 04-05 November 10-11 February	13 12 12 13	4	50
4-day Non-gynaecological Cytology for Trainee Pathologists	9-12 March	10	1	10
FNA Cytology for Technical Staff	12 November	6	1	6
Urinary Tract Cytology for Technical Staff	3 April	9	1	9
5-day Non Gynae Cytology Training for Year 1 Trainee Pathologists	9-13 December	9	1	9

Courses can be booked by contacting the Training Centre on 0117 414 9808 or by e-mailing SWRCTC@nbt.nhs.uk

Cervical cytology courses are free of charge to all technical and consultant staff working in cytology laboratories within the South West region.

6. Course Feedback

As a quality measure course evaluation sheets are given to all course participants. During the regular Training Centre team meetings the course feedback is collated and reviewed. Changes can then be made as deemed appropriate.

The feedback from course participants has been very welcome and suggests that the standard of teaching, training and updating has been excellent and very well received. A summary of participant feedback is listed below.

6.1 Feedback: Courses for Lab Staff – cervical cytology

Pre-exam course for certificate in cervical screening

- Such a well put-together course which really brought up my confidence for the exam

Update in Cervical Cytology for non-medical staff

- Good to get together and discuss slides and cytology in general.
- Insight of future cytology service and new guidelines.
- Difficult slides reviewed during workshops
- Interesting, very hard but enjoyable.
- Interesting, fun, relaxed, informative – perfect conditions to retain information.
- Relaxed, informative, interesting as usual!
- Really enjoyed it.
- Very interesting.
- Very informative course. Thank you so much!

Update in Cervical Cytology for Consultant Staff

- Worth doing a regular annual event.
- Excellent practical classes and teaching at multi-header microscope.
- Excellent; cancer audit
- BC always quite subjective, good to get various opinions and reassuring.

Cervical cytology for ST1 staff

- Well arranged and good facilities.
- Good Quiz's.
- Facilities excellent. Pre-course communication excellent.
- Good course but bit complex. Struggle a bit with retaining basics while introducing new ideas.
- Good that the 'quiz' still included pathology from previous topics/days to continually refresh.
- Good handouts.

6.2 Feedback: Courses for Lab Staff – non gynae cytology

Non-gynae cytology for ST1 staff

- Useful framework discussed, multi-header session really useful.
- Excellent overview of the topic.
- Excellent structured approach.
- Good lecture and workshop. Although fewer cases in the workshop I feel would be better to enable more time to look at them thoroughly.
- More multi-head teaching in place of independent slide viewing would have been useful.
- Very good. Great pace. Pitched to right level for ST1.
- Excellent set to the right level. Very approachable.
- Good clear concise lecture for a difficult topic. Good slide session. It was beneficial to look at the slides together, rather than initially alone, as it is such a difficult topic.
- Lecture a bit fast. Really good going through examples together, then doing test sets. Much better than going straight from lecture to test sets.
- Useful to go through some examples before looking at cases individually

Non-gynae cytology for trainee pathologist (pre part 2 exam)

- Good having mock.
- Good food provided by lunch vouchers.
- Would be good to have a session on biliary brushings.
- Would have loved to get the answer sheet reviewed and evaluated with feedback.
- Overall excellent training.
- Overall an excellent and friendly course! Really useful! Thanks!
- The multi-header sessions are more useful than the lectures. Many thanks.

Urine Cytology for Technical Staff

- It was very useful and I gained some experience looking at slides from specimen types that we would not normally see in our routine GP urine specimens
- Very good
- Good set of slides

FNA Cytology for Technical Staff

- Expanded knowledge on cellular morphology and adequacy of samples, great day!
- A lot of info on the different outcomes on FNA samples.
- Feel more confident when asked for adequacy of samples at clinics.
- Great refreshing course and really useful to start screening non gynae again. Thank you.

6.4 Feedback: Sample taker courses

2-Day Cervical Sample taker training

- Great two days, very encouraging talks and practical sessions. Friendly educators. Informative and reassuring. Really enjoyed!!
- Very well organised. Good it's over two days. Practical sessions good/interactive sessions. What If's/lab visit/role of colposcopy really good
- All of it was well organised and well presented. Good content.
- I'm dreading getting it completed, but feel there is a strong support network there. Well done team!
- Thoroughly enjoyable and informative course, delivered well by all speakers. Good level of student participation.
- Very well run and interesting course. Organised and all speakers were excellent.
- Excellent course. Very well equipped. Thank you
- Thank you very much! I'm looking forward to starting!
- Excellent training. Really enjoyed.
- All speakers very experienced and approachable.
- More dummies for practice please

Half-day condensed foundation course for GP trainees

- Very helpful – thank you. Well looked after too.
- All very relevant and useful.
- Great session, pitched at the right level, lots of opportunity for interaction/asking questions.
- Good topic coverage.
- Interactive and informative.
- Useful overview without giving too much information (appropriate to a GP)
- Excellent – thank you.
- Very interactive, informative and useful for clinical practice.
- Really good session. Information very useful. Would benefit from non-microscopic pictures of cervix in talk.
- Very useful course, targeted at the appropriate level for GP trainees. Thank you!

Sample Taker Update Courses

Health Education have made available a comprehensive on-line update course which is free of charge to all cervical sample takers in England at the following site: <https://portal.e-lfh.org.uk>

7. Further Information / Contact Details

Please log on to our website to see the latest courses on offer for both cytology staff and sample takers.

If you have any queries or comments regarding this report, or would like any additional information, please visit our website or contact us directly.

Website address: www.cytology-training.co.uk

E-mail address for general enquiries or course bookings:

SWRCTC@nbt.nhs.uk

Telephone number: 0117 414 9808

For specific enquiries regarding course content or if you require a course we are not currently advertising please contact the training centre manager directly

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