

Title	Conduct cervical screening		
Level	6	Credits	10

Purpose	<p>This unit standard is for people who wish to become qualified in cervical screening.</p> <p>People credited with this unit standard are able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - demonstrate understanding of the <i>National Cervical Screening Programme</i> - demonstrate understanding of the barriers to screening and strategies for improving participation - encourage and invite women for cervical screening and participation in the <i>National Cervical Screening Programme</i> - assess the cervix and obtain a cervical screening specimen - interpret cervical screening tests, initiate follow-up action, and complete documentation - evaluate own cervical screening practice.
----------------	---

Classification	Health Studies > Cervical Screening
-----------------------	-------------------------------------

Available grade	Achieved
------------------------	----------

Entry information	
Critical health and safety prerequisites	<p>Candidates must be a registered health practitioner, such as a medical practitioner, registered nurse, nurse practitioner, enrolled nurse or registered midwife and must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a have a current New Zealand practising certificate; b provide a clinical supervisor for completion of the clinical component; c possess professional/personal indemnity insurance; d have access to an appropriate client base. <p>Non-New Zealand registered health practitioners wishing to apply for entry into programmes leading to this qualification, can apply to the National Cervical Screening Programme (NCSP) programme manager for consideration.</p>

Explanatory notes

- 1 Documents relevant to the assessment against this unit standard include the *National Cervical Screening Programme (NCSP) policy and quality standards* and the texts referenced in that publication available at <http://www.nsu.govt.nz/health-professionals/1060.aspx>.

All evidence presented must comply with the National Cervical Screening Programme (NCSP) operational requirements as documented in the *National Cervical Screening Programme - Competencies for Smear Taker Training* available at http://www.nsu.govt.nz/files/NCSP/Competencies_for_smear_taker_training_-_FINAL_-_JULY_09.pdf and NCSP procedural requirements as documented in the *NCSP policy and quality standards*, available at <http://www.nsu.govt.nz/health-professionals/1060.aspx>.

- 2 For the award of credit for this unit standard, candidates need to be familiar with: *National Cervical Screening Programme policy and quality standards* and its revisions and the Bethesda Coding System available at <http://www.nsu.govt.nz/health-professionals/1060.aspx>; *Guidelines for Cervical Screening in New Zealand* available at <http://www.nsu.govt.nz/health-professionals/2747.aspx>; *Guidelines for Cervical Screening in New Zealand: Guidance on HPV Testing Update 1: April 2010* available at <http://www.nsu.govt.nz/files/NCSP/Interim HPV testing guidance statement 15.4.1 0.pdf>;
Health and Disability Commissioner Act 1994 (Part 2) Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights;
Health (Cervical Screening (Kaitiaki)) Regulations 1995;
Health Act 1956 [Part 4A National Cervical Screening Programme (s 112A to s 112ZP)];
Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003.
- 3 For candidates, competency for this unit standard must be assessed after the completion of a minimum of 15 cervical screening tests, or at the discretion of the candidate's clinical supervisor if candidates have prior cervical screening experience.
- 4 Candidates enrolled in a programme leading to this unit standard must have ongoing supervision by a permanent clinical supervisor when undertaking cervical screening, until they are assessed as being competent.
- 5 Candidates must support the practices and policies of the NCSP and demonstrate an interest and commitment to women's health and to ongoing professional development.
- 6 For the purposes of this unit standard, *women* includes people who are transgender and qualify for cervical screening.
- 7 **Definitions**
Clinical supervisor is an experienced smear taker delivering a cervical screening service who provides supervision, mentoring and support to the candidate, according to NCSP requirements.

Enrolled nurse refers to a nurse trained in New Zealand with a diploma in enrolled nursing (or equivalent) who works in a variety of health care settings under the direction and delegation of a registered nurse.

HPV is the acronym for human papillomavirus, the main risk factor for the development of cervical cancer.

NCSP Register is the national database in New Zealand that holds the details of cervical cytology and histology results, human papillomavirus (HPV) tests and colposcopy information for all women who participate in the NCSP.

Priority group women refers to Māori, Pasifika and Asian women aged 20-69 years, and other women aged between 30 – 69 years who are either unscreened or who have not had a cervical screening test in the previous five years.

NCSP Quality of Smear Report identifies the percentage of samples in a given period that were adequate specimens. The NCSP provides this report to all smear takers.

Smear taker is a registered health practitioner, such as a medical practitioner, registered nurse, nurse practitioner, enrolled nurse or registered midwife who has successfully completed cervical screening training in accordance with the NCSP policies and standards.

Transfer system refers to the transfer of records from one provider to another, where appropriate.

Visualising the cervix refers to the insertion of a speculum to obtain a clear view of the cervix, in order to note and record any abnormal findings, and to take the cervical specimen.

Outcomes and evidence requirements

Outcome 1

Demonstrate understanding of the *National Cervical Screening Programme (NCSP)*.

Evidence requirements

- 1.1 A cervical screening programme is explained in terms of the context of women's health as identified in *NCSP Competencies for Smear Taker Training*.
- 1.2 Women's participation in the cervical screening pathway is described as per the NCSP policy and quality standards and the *Guidelines for Cervical Screening in New Zealand*.

Outcome 2

Demonstrate understanding of barriers to cervical screening and strategies for improving participation.

Evidence requirements

- 2.1 Barriers to cervical screening are explained in terms of the needs and concerns of individuals and service providers.

Range barriers include – individual, society, system.
- 2.2 Strategies for improving participation are described to address barriers to cervical screening.

Range includes strategies of the – candidate, cervical screening providers, government.

Outcome 3

Encourage and invite women for cervical screening and participation in the *National Cervical Screening Programme* (NCSP).

Evidence requirements

3.1 Women eligible for cervical screening, in particular priority group women, are encouraged to participate in cervical screening.

Range encouragement includes but is not limited to – health education, health promotion, community awareness raising;
health education includes but is not limited to – reasons for having a cervical screening test taken, the process involved, how women will receive their results, the effect of HPV on the cervix, the pathophysiology of cervical cancer.

3.2 Women are invited to participate in the NCSP in accordance with legislative requirements and the NCSP policy and quality standards.

Range invitation - includes recall for ongoing participation.

Outcome 4

Assess the cervix and obtain a cervical screening specimen.

Evidence requirements

4.1 Women are treated with dignity and respect, in a culturally appropriate manner.

4.2 A clinical assessment is made in respect of the woman's health history, and any signs and symptoms indicating possible abnormalities, in accordance with NCSP policy and quality standards.

Range clinical assessment includes – identification of when HPV testing should be offered in accordance with the NCSP guidelines.

4.3 The technique used for taking a cervical screening specimen avoids unnecessary discomfort to the client in accordance with *NCSP Competencies for Smear Taker Training*.

4.4 The technique used for taking a cervical screening specimen includes visualising and assessing the cervix to produce an optimal result.

Range assessing the cervix includes – recognising characteristics of normal and abnormal cervixes and the range of normality;

- 4.5 Candidate’s NCSP Quality Smear Report identifies a rate of smears that are adequate in accordance with the *NCSP Competencies for Smear Taker Training*.

Outcome 5

Interpret cervical screening test results, initiate follow-up action, and complete documentation.

Evidence requirements

- 5.1 Results are interpreted according to laboratory recommendations, NCSP guidelines, and clinical indications.
Range evidence of ten interpretations.
- 5.2 Follow-ups for all women, from whom a cervical screening test has been taken, are carried out in accordance with NCSP policy and quality standards and the *Guidelines for Cervical Screening in NZ*.
Range follow-ups may include – referral to a general practitioner, a colposcopy service.
- 5.3 Accurate and confidential record-keeping systems are maintained including an effective recall and transfer system in accordance with legislative requirements and the NCSP policy and quality standards.
- 5.4 An effective interface with the NCSP Register is maintained in accordance with the NCSP requirements.

Outcome 6

Evaluate own cervical screening practice.

- Range includes but is not limited to – technical performance, interpersonal skills, *Quality of Smears Report* from the NCSP Register.

Evidence requirements

- 6.1 Candidate’s own strengths and areas for improvement are identified to inform future practice.

Planned review date	31 December 2020
----------------------------	------------------

Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	19 July 1994	31 December 2012
Review	2	22 October 2002	31 December 2012
Review	3	23 April 2008	31 December 2012
Revision	4	18 February 2011	31 December 2014
Rollover and Revision	5	18 July 2013	31 December 2016
Review	6		

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference

0007

This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

Please note

Providers must be granted consent to assess against standards (accredited) by NZQA, before they can report credits from assessment against unit standards or deliver courses of study leading to that assessment.

Industry Training Organisations must be granted consent to assess against standards by NZQA before they can register credits from assessment against unit standards.

Providers and Industry Training Organisations, which have been granted consent and which are assessing against unit standards must engage with the moderation system that applies to those standards.

Requirements for consent to assess and an outline of the moderation system that applies to this standard are outlined in the Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR). The CMR also includes useful information about special requirements for organisations wishing to develop education and training programmes, such as minimum qualifications for tutors and assessors, and special resource requirements.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact NZQA National Qualifications Services nqs@nzqa.govt.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.