
Chapter 4 –Providing a Smear-taking Service

Training and Continuing Education

Training requirements All smear takers are required to complete cervical screening training through one of the training programmes listed below:

- Training as part of a medical degree
 - NZQA Midwifery Training programmes
 - NZQA Accredited courses for non-medical smear takers.
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Standard 401 All smear takers will complete a recognised educational course in smear-taking practice prior to providing a smear-taking service for women.

Competencies for smear takers The NCSP expects smear takers to have an up-to-date knowledge of smear-taking techniques, screening issues and the NCSP, including its benefits and limitations.

Other standards for smear takers Additional standards that link with the provision of screening services include:

- Aiming for Excellence in General Practice, RNZCGP Standards for General Practice, April 2000.
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Chapter 4 –Providing a Smear-taking Service

Training and Continuing Education, Continued

**Maintaining
competency**

Smear takers are expected to maintain their competency by:

- Taking smears on a regular basis
 - Reading current information from the NCSP and relevant journal articles
 - Attending regular clinical updates run by relevant professional bodies and NCSP Regional Services
 - Attending regular continuing education updates on cervical screening or related topics.
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