

What is a Cervical Screening Mentor?

The cervical screening Mentor ('Mentor' from this point) supports the Trainee through their practical Sample Taker Training and confirms their achievement for progression to the final evaluation and clinical assessment.

The Trainee identifies to the training provider an individual who will take on the Mentor role in their place of work.

Mentors must be one of the following, a:

- registered nurse
- registered midwife
- registered physician associate
- GMC registered medical doctor.

Mentors must be practising sample takers with at least 12 months' continuous experience, having taken at least 50 cervical samples following completion of their own initial training. Mentors must have effective communication skills and ideally hold a relevant Mentoring and, or teaching qualification.

Maintaining competence in the Mentor and or Assessor roles

The training organisation provides a forum in which Mentors and Assessors can discuss any training issues with their peers and participate in standardisation activity to verify their compliance with the national guidance.

The training organisation provides an update (separate from the required 3 yearly update) for Assessors and Mentors to ensure they remain competent in their respective roles.

Mentors and Assessors must undertake a formal cervical screening update at least every 3 years as a practising sample taker

In addition, Mentors and Assessors must:

- 1.1 regularly attend and participate in the training provider's forum(s) to update and maintain competence in their respective roles
- 1.2 stay updated with any local and or national changes to the cervical screening programme (including equipment and sample preparation)
- 1.3 show continuing competence in taking cervical samples in accordance with their professional codes of conduct
- 1.4 meet their professional obligations for continuing professional development (CPD)
- 1.5 undertake continuous self-evaluation
- 1.6 audit and reflect on their individual rates of abnormal test results and sample acceptance as reported by the local cervical screening laboratory

What does the Mentor do?

The Mentor will work with the Trainee through a period of observation, supervised practice and support.

Before moving on to unsupervised clinical practice, the Trainee must undertake an interim assessment with the Mentor.

The Trainee must maintain regular contact with their Mentor to:

- identify and discuss any emerging training issues or problems
- discuss progress towards meeting identified training needs
- review their progress throughout their unsupervised practice
- prepare for the final evaluation session and clinical assessment

Mentors can contact the Learning and Development Centre for support: shs.cervicalsampletakers1@nhs.net
PHE guidance <https://phescreening.blog.gov.uk/2020/03/05/updated-guidance-training-cervical-sample-takers/>