



Public Health  
England



# Quality Assurance Report

University Hospitals of Morecambe  
Bay NHS Foundation Trust Cervical  
Screening Programme visit on 15 & 16  
June 2016

Version 1.0/ September 2016

**Public Health England leads the NHS screening programmes**

## About Public Health England

Public Health England exists to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing, and reduce health inequalities. It does this through world-class science, knowledge and intelligence, advocacy, partnerships and the delivery of specialist public health services. PHE is an operationally autonomous executive agency of the Department of Health.

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## About PHE Screening

Screening identifies apparently healthy people who may be at increased risk of a disease or condition, enabling earlier treatment or better informed decisions. National population screening programmes are implemented in the NHS on the advice of the UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC), which makes independent, evidence-based recommendations to ministers in the four UK countries. The Screening Quality Assurance Service ensures programmes are safe and effective by checking that national standards are met. PHE leads the NHS Screening Programmes and hosts the UK NSC secretariat.

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[www.gov.uk/topic/population-screening-programmes](http://www.gov.uk/topic/population-screening-programmes)

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## Executive summary

The findings in this report relate to the quality assurance (QA) review of the University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust cervical screening service (UHMBT) held 15-16 June 2016.

### Purpose and approach to quality assurance (QA)

The aim of quality assurance in NHS screening programmes is to maintain minimum standards and promote continuous improvement in cervical screening. This is to ensure that all eligible people have access to a consistent high quality service wherever they live.

QA visits are carried out by the PHE screening quality assurance service (SQAS).

The evidence for this report is derived from the following sources:

- routine monitoring data collected by the NHS screening programmes
- data and reports from external organisations as appropriate
- evidence submitted by the provider(s), commissioner and external organisations as appropriate
- information collected during pre-review visits
- Information shared with the QA team as part of the visit process

### Description of local screening programme

UHMBT provides health care in hospital and the community to 365,000 people across Barrow-in-Furness, Kendal, Lancaster and the South Lakes area. Cytology cervical screening services are provided by Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Histology cervical screening services are provided by the laboratory within UHMBT. Colposcopy is commissioned by NHS England - North (Greater Manchester and Lancashire, Cumbria and North East) with North Lancashire and Cumbria CCGs.

### Key findings

The QA team found a well-functioning colposcopy service with strong leadership from the lead colposcopist which is evident throughout the whole team. The visiting team recognise this is a complex geography which maintains a good working multidisciplinary function across all sites. The enthusiasm of the whole team is to improve its service to women.

There are three colposcopy units, located in Furness General Hospital, Westmorland General Hospital, and one at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary. Accommodation at all sites was of a good standard with suitable consultation rooms and recently procured colposcopy equipment.

The patient satisfaction questionnaire carried out in 2015 received positive comments relating to the attitudes of the staff and the service patients receive. The programme should be commended for this.

The high priority issues are summarised below as well as areas of good practice.

There were no immediate recommendations.

The QA team advised that the following areas be addressed with high priority:

- job plan review and development for lead colposcopist and lead histopathologist.
- confirmation of the merger of the three databases to facilitate the production of a single KC65 (national data return) for the trust ensuring access is available for all relevant staff
- policy development and implementation for the assessment/acceptance of locum staff prior to appointment
- resubmission of the completed colposcopy dataset

## Shared learning

The review team identified several areas of practice that are worth sharing:

- a dedicated hospital based programme coordinator in post
- responsive and varied strategies in histopathology to minimise the impact of staffing shortages on service provision
- the service should be commended for the low do not attend (DNA) rate of 6.5%, particularly in view of the challenges of the geography and demographic profile of the eligible population

## Immediate concerns for improvement

The review team identified no immediate concerns.

## High priority issues

The review team identified four high priority issues, as grouped below..

- job plan reviews and development for lead colposcopist and lead histopathologist
- confirmation of the merger of the three databases to facilitate the production of a single KC65 for the trust ensuring access is available for all relevant staff
- a policy should be devised for the assessment/ acceptance of locum staff prior to appointment
- resubmission of the completed colposcopy dataset

### Key Recommendations

A number of recommendations were made related to the high level issues identified above. These are summarised in the table below:

<b>Level</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Description of recommendation</b>
High	Guidance	Job plan reviews and development for lead colposcopist and lead histopathologist
High	Guidance	A policy should be developed and implemented for the assessment/ acceptance of locum staff prior to appointment
High	Data	Merger of the three databases to facilitate the production of a single KC65 for the Trust ensuring access is available for all relevant staff
High	Data	Review of colposcopy database report writer to produce colposcopy dataset

### Next steps

University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust is responsible for developing an action plan to ensure completion of recommendations contained within this report.

NHS England screening & immunisation team Lancashire and Cumbria will be responsible for monitoring progress against the action plan and ensuring all recommendations are implemented.