Cervical Screening Wales: HPV Implementation Project
May 2016

The CMP briefing in April outlined the changes in structure with the closure of the Modernisation project and the introduction of HPV Implementation Project, with the remit of developing plans for expanding and implementing HPV primary testing across Wales.

The Project team welcomes Jessica Khoshooee who will be attending on behalf of UNISON union and Diane Rogers who will be attending on behalf of UNITE. Both will be representing employees across Wales. This monthly briefing will now focus on this project and will replace the monthly CMP briefing.

HPV Triage

Work is on track for the introduction of high risk (HR) HPV Triage for women with borderline/low grade cytology on 31 May 2016. The briefing in April outlined the importance of current laboratory timeliness to be maintained. It will not be possible to identify which samples require HPV testing until the cytology result is available, and HPV testing should not be carried out on samples greater than 30 days old.

There is an expectation that the introduction of HPV Triage will result in a short term increase in numbers of women referred to Colposcopy. Therefore it is important that clinics continue to discharge women promptly if there is no cervical abnormality. This is in line with policy introduced by CSW in the last 18 months and should support the creation of sufficient capacity to manage any increase to Colposcopy.

Visit to Sentinel Sites

In April, CSW visited one of the ‘Sentinel sites’ in England to learn from their experience of expanding HPV primary testing. There are six ‘sentinel’ sites in England where the introduction of primary HPV testing was piloted and data collected to support the recommendation made by the National Screening Committee in January 2016 for HPV primary testing as the primary test for cervical screening. This visit provided an insight into the challenges associated with introducing an HPV primary pilot and the opportunity to look at how the model was successfully implemented.

HPV Primary Pilot

The HPV Implementation Group are considering the lessons learned and information gained from their visit to England to start working through the option for developing a plan for the introduction of HPV primary pilots in Wales. Work is in the very early stages but the model for the pilot will need to support sustainability of services in the laboratories across Wales as well as provide a way to meet the shortfall in capacity. It is anticipated that any model will need to be applied across Wales. The Project team are hoping that a model will be developed and approved by the Project Board by the end of the calendar year 2016.
HPV Primary Testing

CSW have been asked by Welsh Government to provide a high level costed business case to National Screening Committee in June 2016 outlining proposals for HPV primary testing. There are no plans to implement HPV primary testing in this financial year.

All Wales Stakeholder Engagement Event

Plans are being developed to hold an all Wales stakeholder engagement event in September 2016. It is hoped to engage staff from primary care and secondary care and will include break-out sessions with a focus on the impact of HPV expansion on specific service groups including laboratory and Colposcopy services. This will be an opportunity to speak with CSW and colleagues from across Wales about the changes to the cervical screening. It will also provide an opportunity for you to help CSW to understand how best to share information with the service in the future.

Communication and Engagement

The HPV Project team will continue to produce a monthly newsletter to update you on progress in relation to HPV expansion across Wales. Once a month the lab manager’s operational meeting will be extended along with the invitations to the wider laboratory workforce. These meetings will provide the opportunity to update the workforce on specific service issues and provide the opportunity to engage in discussion with CSW.

Contact

If staff would like to raise queries via their trades unions then they should contact

- Jessica Khoshooee (UNISON member of HPV Implementation Project Team) J.Khoshooee@unison.co.uk
- Diane Rogers (UNITE Member of the HPV Implementation Project Team) diane.rogers@wales.nhs.uk
- Andy Hardy (National officer for Managers in Partnership – MiP) a.hardy@miphealth.org.uk

Any feedback on this briefing is welcome. Please send any comments or queries to me: rosemary.fox@wales.nhs.uk so I can make sure they’re answered, and also to include on the web Q&A page, which can be found at http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/screeningprofessionals/cervical-modernisation-project-faq-s

Best wishes, Rose