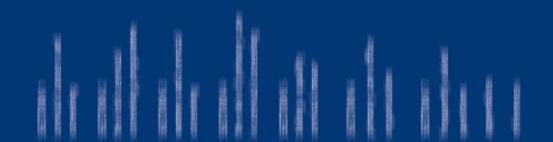


## resource manual for smeartakers

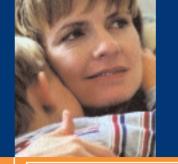
ICSP/ICGP would like to acknowledge and express our appreciation for the contribution and guidance received from colleagues, doctors and others, in the development and production of this manual.



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introduction

## Introduction

The first phase of the Irish Cervical Screening Programme was launched in the Mid-Western Health Board area in October 2000, to test the operational issues for establishing a national screening programme in Ireland. This was based on the recommendation of the Report of the Department of Health Cervical Screening Committee, published in December 1996.

Cervical screening through the Programme will be based in primary care. It is anticipated that practice nurses will take the majority of screening smears. Accordingly, there is a need to provide support and training for both GPs and practice nurses. The Irish College of General Practitioners has devised an education programme for GPs and this has been well received in the Mid-Western Health Board area.

The Irish Cervical Screening Programme, in partnership with the Royal College of Surgeons have developed a comprehensive smeartaker training programme which is primarily aimed at nurses, at this time, and focuses on clinical competencies. Accreditation for this programme is anticipated in October 2003.

This document has been written by general practitioners from the Irish College of General Practitioners in collaboration with the Irish Cervical Screening Programme to support these training programmes. It provides:

- An overview of cervical cancer and screening
- Details of the Irish Cervical Screening Programme
- The role of primary care professionals in cervical screening
- Guidelines on taking a quality smear

Irish College of General Practitioners

Irish Cervical Screening Programme

September 2003



