#### What is a Cervical Sample Taker Assessor?

The cervical screening Assessor (‘Assessor’ from this point) provides an element of externality which is crucial to quality assuring the training and verifying the assessment process. The Assessor is responsible for conducting the Trainee’s final clinical assessment.

Assessors must be one of the following, a:

* registered nurse
* registered midwife
* registered physician associate
* GMC registered medical doctor

Assessors 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. Assessors must have effective communication skills and ideally hold a relevant mentoring and, or teaching qualification.

The Assessor is external to the Trainee’s place of work. A mentor can take on the role of Assessor for a Trainee outside their own practice. The Assessor must meet the same criteria as described for mentors.

#### Maintaining competence in the Mentor and or Assessor roles

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

In addition, Assessors must:

* regularly attend and participate in the training provider’s forum(s) to update and maintain competence in their respective roles
* stay updated with any local and or national changes to the cervical screening programme (including equipment and sample preparation)
* show continuing competence in taking cervical samples in accordance to their professional codes of conduct
* meet their professional obligations for continuing professional development (CPD)
* undertake continuous self-evaluation
* 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 Assessor do?**

The Trainee and Assessor plan and arrange a formal evaluation session which includes a final clinical assessment which will be approximately 3 hours.

The Trainee must provide evidence of having taken and reviewed 20 acceptable cervical samples before proceeding to the final clinical assessment. We advise the Trainee to book in at least 5 people for their cervical screening test.

The Assessor observes and assesses the Trainee taking a minimum of 3 samples.

The assessment will focus on the Trainee’s:

* professional conduct
* knowledge and communication skills
* cervical sampling technique
* adherence to infection control measures
* accurate and timely completion of the request form
* reflection and evaluation of own practice

The Assessor will stop the assessment immediately if they see the Trainee engaging in unsafe or unprofessional practice.

The Assessor can engage the Trainee in professional discussion on other aspects of practice not necessarily covered during the consultation (once the person having screening has left).

The Assessor documents their observations and completes a report on the Trainee’s clinical competence to practice.

The Trainee submits their completed portfolio to the training provider after the final assessment.

**Payment**

Assessors will be paid £75 for each evaluation to include travel costs, documentation and reporting.

If the Trainee requires an additional Assessor visit, for example not enough patients attend or the Trainee does not pass the assessment, this will be invoiced directly to the practice from the Assessor. It is recommended that Assessors invoice at £25 per hour and this is likely to be a two hour visit. Please ensure you understand this and agree to honour this in the event of extra visits.