

#### Training and Education:

Cytopathology has contributed to review of FRCPath format. A pilot of using borderline group method marking will be undertaken parallel to that being undertaken in histopathology.

There continues to be concern regarding the delivery of cytology training in general.

Performance in the RCPPath/IBMS Advanced Specialist Diploma in cervical cytology has been reviewed following a deterioration in performance in the qualification.

A new RCPPath/IBMS qualification Advanced Specialist Diploma in non-cervical cytology is in the final stages of introduction.

#### Research and Clinical Trials:

No issues to report.

#### New developments and issues affecting service delivery:

The pilot of HPV primary screening has been progressing since April 2014. The first consideration of the evidence from this is due for consideration by the Advisory Committee for Cervical Screening in early 2015.

#### Service configuration and profile (local, vs regional vs national):

Consolidation of cervical cytology services is continuing, with a continuing reduction in the number of laboratories offering a cervical cytology service. This is likely to continue into the future. A similar consolidation of histopathology is not taking place, resulting in increasing separation of histopathology and cytology services.

#### Overview of College Documents 'owned' or contributed to by the specialty - with details of plans for review e.g. datasets, pathways, other standards documents:

Review of the guidance on the reporting of thyroid cytology has commenced. New guidance on the management of thyroid cancer, which refers to the RCPPath document, has been published by the British Thyroid Association.



Review of the cytology tissue pathway document is due to be undertaken in early 2015.

Workforce planning and recruitment to the specialty:

Non-cervical cytology remains a core component of histopathology training and thus workforce issues are a reflection of wider histopathology concerns.

Cervical cytology is now a separate, optional component which gives little opportunity for workforce planning. There is currently no evidence that there is a shortfall of pathologists to deliver the service. There is an adverse age profile of advanced biomedical scientist practitioners. Without continued delivery of qualified staff through the RCPATH/IBMS Advanced Specialist Diploma in cervical cytology, capacity issues could become a problem in the future.

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