



The Vaginal Examination Skills Lab

Authors: Ellen Macwilliams, Molly Pipping, Jack Quinn

Building on the findings from a scoping survey to identify workforce need, an educational need was highlighted to upskill Practice Nurses in bi-manual vaginal examination to support the earlier diagnosis of gynaecological cancers. The concept of a 'skills lab' where the workforce could acquire hands-on practical skills was piloted to equip practitioners with theoretical knowledge and experiential learning.



The first 'Vaginal Examination Skills Lab' took place in 2024 with the session attended by 15 professionals from across Greater Manchester. Delegates represented various localities including Bury, Oldham, Stockport, Manchester and Heywood, Middleton, and Rochdale (HMR). The attendees spanned various professional groupings including GP trainees, Practice Nurses, and Physician Associates.



The skills lab was positively received by attendees, with several comments regarding how the training has improved their confidence and will positively impact their practice thus improving patient care. Through provision of this training, a parallel need has been identified for similar education amongst GP's. Although the training was initially aimed at Practice Nurses, the highest demand seen was from GP Trainees. GM Cancer Academy will continue to provide this education to ensure equity in education to bridge educational gaps, enhance the capabilities of healthcare professionals, and contribute to the earlier diagnosis of cancer.

