

## **Population Screening - 30 credits**

**NRT109**

**Module leader: Pat Jones**

**Please Note: students are required to have 2 years clinical experience from the point of registration to study this module.**

Students will be expected to be working within a screening programme or an associated service.

The module aims to facilitate the development of an advanced practitioner in population screening who can appraise the current evidence for screening and critically explore the role of screening in promoting health and preventing disease; apply the principles of health promotion/public health and screening; and critically evaluate the role of advanced communication skills and quality assurance processes in the delivery of an effective population screening programme.

The module will provide the opportunity to critically explore the role of population screening programmes in effectively reducing health risk by increasing the early detection of diseases and in the prevention of diseases such as cancer (NICE 2004, WAG 2005, WAG 2006, DOH 2007). National population screening programmes require competent, skilled and knowledgeable practitioners to ensure the quality of such programmes (National Screening Committee 2000, WAG 2006, WAG 2007). The module is designed to enhance the practitioner's knowledge and skills pertinent to the role of a practitioner working within a screening programme and particularly in relation to communication skills and health promotion. The emphasis within the module being upon maintaining public confidence in National screening programmes through the development of autonomous and proficient practitioners who can apply rigorous quality procedures. The module will encourage adult learning through independent enquiry and learning within the practitioner's own specialist field of screening. The module hopes to capture practitioners from a wide range of the screening community to stimulate discussion, debate and opportunities for networking.

Programme Content includes:

- Sources and limitations of health data (epidemiology, demographics, census etc); gathering and interpreting health data

- Health determinants and influences on health achievement
- Measuring risk and risk management
- Methods of assessing health and social needs
- Population profiling and screening
- Defining public health and screening
- WHO strategies for public health
- Public health and social policies; guidelines and quality assurance standards and performance criteria for screening – global, national and local
- Audit- monitoring and evaluation of screening programmes
- Health promotion theory/principles and practice-(empowerment, autonomy and informed decision making, advocacy, approaches to promoting individual behaviour change)
- Principles of screening and health surveillance
- Factors that influence screening - (influencing behaviour of target population; sociological and psychological factors which affect participant's behaviour; use of decision aids to increase uptake)
- Ethical issues related to screening
- Efficacy/Risks of screening- (evidence of the benefits/effectiveness of screening; limitations/disadvantages (sensitivity, positive/negative specificity, predictive values, specificity); Failsafe mechanisms)
- Need for support and guidance of participants/patients undergoing screening and following diagnoses.
- Use of advanced communication skills; counselling/helping skills and breaking bad news.
- Informed decision making about screening options, care and treatment
- Multi-disciplinary/ multi-agency and collaborative working
- Screening records and documentation

On completion of the module students are expected to be able to:

- Critically explore approaches that underpin effective public health practice within the context of the screening role.
- Critically appraise health data in establishing the evidence for screening in the planning, implementation and evaluation of screening programmes.
- Critically discuss the principles of screening and the potential benefits, risks and factors that may influence population screening.
- Critically evaluate the importance of effective communication skills in relation to supporting and counselling participants/patients, relatives and carers and in maintaining the integrity of multi-disciplinary/collaborative working within a screening programme.
- Critically evaluate the role of quality assurance processes, local and National policies and Government guidelines in maintaining safe and effective screening programmes.

## **Level 4**

**Delivery/Term** Autumn - week commencing 29 September 2010

### **Further information contact**

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For further details on named pathways and modules visit Cardiff School of Nursing and Midwifery Studies website at [www.cardiff.ac.uk/nursing](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/nursing)

### **Your completed application form should be submitted to:**

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