Helping to increase a woman's understanding of cervical screening

Easy to understand information
NHS cancer screening programme easy read booklet and letter
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cervical-screening-supporting-women-with-learning-disabilities

Additional information on cervical screening is available at:
https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/cervical-screening/

Ensure reasonable adjustments are offered
Find out how the woman communicates - you can ask family/carers.
Find out what word the woman uses for vagina to avoid misunderstandings.
Offer a pre visit so that the woman can feel safe.
Consider an alternative venue, if this is appropriate.
Show the speculum and sample broom to the patient. Let them hold and explain how they work.
Show the position need for the test. Encourage her to get onto the couch to see how it feels.
Suggest that she practices the position at home. This can be done with clothes on in their bedroom where they feel relaxed. Carers may need to support.
If they want somebody present during the test, assure this it is their choice.
Offer a longer appointment and/or a first or last appointment if needed.
Consider ways to help the woman feel relaxed, e.g. music.
Consider prescribing something to help them relax if necessary.

Remember the woman
Needs to understand what will happen at the test.
Needs to be able to remember this information for as long as it takes to do the test.
Needs to be able to understand that having the test will help them stay healthy.
Needs to be able to tell you by any communication means that they want to try having the test.

Further support
Contact the community learning disability team
https://necldnetwork.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/LDC_pack_2022.pdf

North East and Cumbria learning disability network