

Cervical Cancer Screening

WHAT IS IT?

Your ob-gyn or other health care professional takes cells from the cervix and sends them to a lab for testing:

- A Pap test looks for abnormal cells.
- An HPV test looks for infection with the human papillomavirus (HPV) types that are linked to cervical cancer.

FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES:

If you are younger than 21 years	You do not need screening.
If you are aged 21–29 years	Have a Pap test every 3 years.
If you are aged 30–65 years	You can choose one of three options: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have a Pap test and an HPV test (co-testing) every 5 years• Have a Pap test alone every 3 years• Have an HPV test alone every 5 years
If you are 65 years or older	You do not need screening if you have no history of cervical changes and either three negative Pap test results in a row or two negative co-test results in a row within the past 10 years, with the most recent test performed within the past 5 years.

REMEMBER!

- **You still need to have screening if you have been vaccinated against HPV.**
- **You still need to have screening if you have had a hysterectomy and your cervix was not removed.**

EXCEPTIONS TO THESE GUIDELINES:

If any of these apply to you: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You have human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).• You have a weakened immune system.• You have a history of cervical cancer.• You were exposed to diethylstilbestrol before birth.	You may need more frequent screening.
If you have had a hysterectomy in which your cervix was removed and... <ul style="list-style-type: none">• you have a history of cervical cancer or moderate to severe cervical changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to have screening for 20 years after your surgery.• You do not need screening.



SEE YOUR OB-GYN ANNUALLY FOR A WELL-WOMAN EXAM.

Even if you are not due for cervical cancer screening, you should still see your ob-gyn each year for birth control counseling, vaccinations, health screenings, preconception care, and the latest information about your reproductive health.

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