

March 2021

## Routine cervical cancer screening

This communication discusses the frequency of cervical cancer screening for average risk women. It does not address women with a history of prior abnormal results, precancerous cervical lesions, cervical cancer or those who are immunocompromised.

### Additional coverage information

Routine screening Pap testing will not be reimbursed for women younger than 21 years of age. In addition, effective July 1, 2021, routine screening frequency for women aged 21 to 65 will be reimbursed no more frequently than once every three years. Also, reimbursement for routine Pap testing for women 66 and older with prior negative screening results will be denied.

### Screening method and intervals

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force,<sup>1</sup> the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists<sup>2</sup>, the American Cancer Society<sup>3</sup>, the American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology, and the American Society for Clinical Pathology all agree that the optimal screening interval is not more frequently than every three years.

Population	Recommended screening
Women younger than 21 years of age	No screening
Women aged 21 to 29 years of age	Cervical Pap alone every three years
Women aged 30 to 65 years of age	Human papillomavirus and cervical Pap co-testing every five years or cervical Pap alone every three years
Women older than 65 years of age	No screening is necessary after adequate negative prior screening results
Women who underwent total hysterectomy (with no residual cervix)	No screening is necessary

Footnotes:

1 Saslow D, Solomon D, Lawson HW, et al. *American Cancer Society, American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology, American Society for Clinical Pathology screening guidelines for the prevention and early detection of cervical cancer. CA Cancer J Clin* 2012;62:147-72.

2 American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. *Practice Bulletin Number 157: Screening for Cervical Cancer. Obstet Gynecol.* 2016; 127:e1-20

3 United States Preventive Services Task Force. *Cervical Cancer.* March 2012. Available at: <http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/page/document/updatesummaryfinal/cervical-cancer-screening>.

<https://provider.healthybluenc.com>

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