

Pap Tests for Older Women

A HEALTHY HABIT FOR LIFE



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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Public Health Service • National Institutes of Health
National Cancer Institute • Health Care Financing Administration

Make your appointment for a Pap test today!

1. What is a Pap test?

A Pap test is a way to check for cancer of the cervix, the opening to a woman's womb. A Pap test can find cancer early. If it is found at an earlier stage, it is easier to cure.

2. Could I have cancer of the cervix and not know it?

YES. Cervical cancer can develop without symptoms.

This kind of cancer kills many older women every year.

3. If I've gone through menopause, do I still need a Pap test?

Frequently, you still need to get Pap tests. There is no upper age limit. Check with your doctor.

4. If I've had a hysterectomy, do I still need a Pap test?

Some women who have had hysterectomies still need to get Pap tests. Check with your doctor.

5. If I'm not sexually active now, do I still need a Pap test?

Some women who are not currently sexually active still need Pap tests. Almost all cervical cancer is caused by a sexually transmitted virus that can live in the body for many years.



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6. How often should I get a Pap test?

Most women should get yearly Pap tests. But if you have had normal Pap test results for several years, your doctor may change your testing schedule. Your doctor can tell you what testing schedule is right for you.

7. Where do I get a Pap test?

- Doctor's office
- Medical clinic
- Local health department

8. How is a Pap test done?

The nurse or doctor wipes a tiny brush on the cervix to take a sample of cells. The test takes only a few seconds.

9. Why is a Pap test important to me?

Pap tests can save your life!

Pap tests can find abnormal cervical cell changes before they have a chance to become cancerous.

CRIS Library
C2-07-13
7500 Security Blvd.
Baltimore, Maryland 21244

10. Does Medicare help pay for Pap tests?

Medicare helps pay for a screening Pap test once every 2 years. Medicare may pay more often if necessary. For Medicare information, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

For more information on the Pap test,
call the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service at
1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237).

Persons with TTY equipment, dial 1-800-332-8615.

You can also visit the National Cancer Institute's Web site at www.cancer.gov.



Call your doctor or local medical clinic
TODAY for a Pap test appointment.

My appointment for a Pap test

Date _____

Time _____

Place _____

Telephone _____

For Medicare Information
visit the Web site at **<http://www.medicare.gov>**
or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).



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