

National Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

What is cervical cancer?

Cervical cancer is a slow-forming cancer that forms in the lining of the cervix—the lower part of the uterus or womb. Normal cells in the cervical lining change to pre-cancerous cells, then to cancerous cells. Although this change often occurs over many years, some cases can progress faster. Although most cases occur in women between the ages of 20 to 50, women older than 50 are still at risk, according to the American Cancer Society.

Can cervical cancer be prevented?

Once one of the most common causes of cancer death among American women, cervical cancer is often cured when found and treated early. Changes in the cells of the cervical lining can be detected by a Pap test. The American Cancer Society estimated about 12,700 new cases of invasive cervical cancer and nearly 4,300 deaths from cervical cancer for 2011. Promoting the cervical cancer screening could encourage more women to take advantage of this service, leading to more success stories.

What is a Pap test?

A doctor will gently brush or scrape the cervix to remove a sample of cells and mucus. This sample is sent to the lab to be examined under a microscope. Further tests will be ordered if abnormal cells are detected. These tests will help to determine whether the cells are cancerous or pre-cancerous, and what treatment may be needed.

American Cancer Society, www.cancer.org

Know your benefits

Members age 6 and older:

In addition to the \$200 annual benefit for preventative screening services, the Pap test is covered at 100 percent of the allowed charge and the deductible is waived. If the member is younger than age 6, the service will apply toward the \$200 preventive maximum. Benefits are available as follows:

- One Pap test per Benefit Period: deductible and coinsurance waived
- Related office visit: copayment applied, deductible and coinsurance waived

Additional benefits will be available for Pap tests when Medically Appropriate and Necessary and ordered by a Professional Health Care Provider. See Outpatient Hospital and Medical Services.

** Benefits outlined above apply to members on the Grandfathered Benefit Plan. Members on the Non-Grandfathered or HDHP plans may contact Member Services at 1-800-223-1704 (Monday through Friday 8 a.m. -5 p.m. CST) for clarification of coverage.*



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