

Women's Health Partners, LLC

Diplomates American Board of Obstetrics & Gynecology

Pap Smear Information from Women's Health Partners

Pap Smear Basics

The Pap smear and HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) testing are the best tools we have to prevent cervical cancer and are very reliable. It checks for early changes before cancer develops. Testing has become more accurate and has evolved over the years. Screening protocols are from respected organizations like the American Cancer Society, ACOG, and USPSTF.

*A Pap smear **only screens for cervical cancer**—it does *not* test for ovarian or uterine cancer.

When Do I Need a Pap?

- Ages 21-29: Pap every 3 years
- Ages 30-65:
 - HPV test every 5 years **OR**
 - Pap + HPV test every 5 years **OR**
 - Pap alone every 3 years
- **Over 65:** May stop if you've had normal results for 10 years and no risk factors
- **After hysterectomy (with cervix removed):** Usually no longer needed (unless prior cancer or high-grade changes)

Important to Know

- You still need a yearly exam, even if it is not time for a Pap.
- You may need more frequent testing based on your personal history (HPV status, past results and treatments, immune system, sexual history, etc.)
- Always talk with your provider about what is right for you based on your history.

Insurance

- Most insurance covers screening only when done on the recommended schedule.
- If done too frequently or at your request, it may **not be covered**.
- If you need more frequent testing for medical reasons (typically with specific billing codes), the Pap/HPV test is generally covered. However, copays/deductibles may still apply.
- These tests are billed from the participating Lab, not Women's Health Partners.