



Pap Test Guidelines

How often should I get a Pap test?

Based on the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) guidelines, *Women's Way* recommends that cervical cancer screening should be done every three years with a Pap test alone or every five years with the combination of a Pap test and a HPV test. However, health-care providers may suggest a woman get screened every year if she has certain high risk factors such as HIV/AIDS, a weakened immune system or a history of cervical cancer. Women who have had a hysterectomy and removal of their cervix may choose to stop having cervical cancer screening, unless the hysterectomy was done as a treatment for cervical cancer or pre-cancer. Women who have had a hysterectomy without removal of the cervix should continue to follow the guidelines above.

When will *Women's Way* pay for a Pap test?

Women's Way will pay for a Pap test every three years if not combined with an HPV test or every five years if the Pap test is combined with a HPV test. There could be situations where *Women's Way* will pay for a yearly Pap test. *Women's Way* will also pay for a Pap test for the follow-up of an abnormal result. If a woman has had a hysterectomy for reasons other than cervical cancer or pre-cancer, and is not sure if she still has a cervix, *Women's Way* will pay for a Pap test to determine if she has a cervix. If the woman does not have a cervix, *Women's Way* will not reimburse for future Pap tests. For any questions, contact your *Women's Way* local coordinator at 800.449.6636 or the *Women's Way* state office at 701.328.2389.

If I don't need a Pap test, will *Women's Way* pay for an annual exam?

During the years when you don't need a Pap test, *Women's Way* will pay for an office visit that includes a pelvic exam and clinical breast exam. **If you are not due to have a Pap test, be sure to tell your health-care provider. If you have a Pap test during a year that you are not due, you will be responsible to pay for it.**

What is the difference between a pelvic exam and a Pap test?

A pelvic exam is a physical examination of a woman's vagina, cervix, uterus, and ovaries. A pelvic exam takes only a few minutes and may be slightly uncomfortable but not painful. It is important to have a pelvic exam every year even during those years when a Pap test is not done.

A Pap test is when a healthcare provider collects cells from the cervix. A brush or swab is used to collect the cells. A Pap test is done during a pelvic exam. A woman can have a pelvic exam without having a Pap test.