



PAP SMEARS

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW AND DO?

What is a PAP Smear Test?

A PAP smear is a test for a woman that allows the examination of cells from the cervix (or lower, end of the uterus). It only requires a small sample of cells to be taken from the cervix. These cells are sent to the laboratory and examined under a microscope by a trained scientist. The main purpose of this test is to find abnormal cell changes that may be indicative or precursors to cervical cancer. If a cell abnormality is found further tests may need to be performed to determine the condition of the cervix.

How often should I have a PAP Test?

PAP smears should be performed at least every two years in all women who have been or are sexually active unless your doctor advises otherwise. If you are experiencing any abnormal vaginal bleeding, discharge or discomfort, or if you have any concerns or questions, please contact your doctor.

How is the sample collected for testing?

The traditional method consists of sampling cells from the cervical area, which are then smeared onto a glass slide. An improved collection technique is Thin Prep Pap Test. After preparing the traditional smear, the collection device is rinsed into a vial of special liquid preservative. This cell suspension is processed onto a glass slide and examined.

How do I request a Thin Prep Pap Test?

Simply ask your doctor and indicate that in addition to your traditional Pap smear you would like to have a Thin Prep performed.

How much does it cost?

A traditional Pap smear is a Medicare rebatable test.

The Thin Prep test is a non-rebatable test and an out-of-pocket fee will apply.

Enquiries:

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