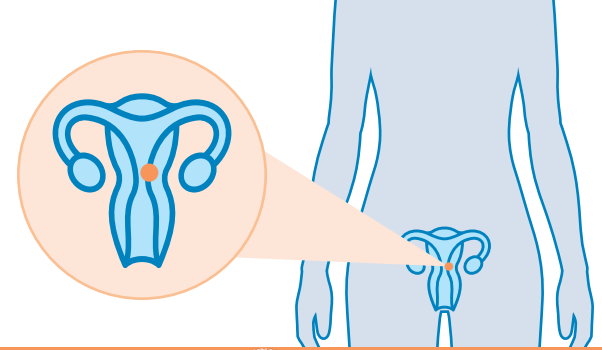


CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING



PATIENT EDUCATION FACT SHEET



SHOULDER to SHOULDER
Every Step of the Way

VA recommends routine screenings for cervical cancer to improve disease outcomes. The earlier the cancer is detected, the more successful the cancer treatment can be.

What is cervical cancer screening?

Cervical cancer starts in the cells of the cervix. In most cases, cervical cancer is caused by human papillomavirus (HPV). Two tests, the Pap and HPV tests, can help catch cervical cancer early. Pap tests look for cell changes on the cervix that could become cervical cancer. HPV tests look for the virus that can cause cells on the cervix to become cancerous.



Thanks to cervical cancer screenings, the number of cervical cancer deaths in the United States has

dropped by more than 50% since the mid-1970s



Who should get screened?

- o Women 21-29 should get a Pap test every 3 years
- o Women 30-65 should get screened every 3-5 years, **depending on the test chosen**
 - o Pap testing alone is every 3 years
 - o HPV testing alone is every 5 years
 - o Pap and HPV testing together is every 5 years



What are my next steps for cervical cancer screening?

- ✓ Ask your primary care provider about your risk level and options for cervical cancer screening
- ✓ Learn more about recommended screenings here: go.usa.gov/xFvyg
- ✓ Learn more at cancer.va.gov or email cancer@va.gov
- ✓ Share this information with other Veterans. **You just might save a life.**