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CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING GUIDELINES

As of November 2012, new screening guidelines for cervical cancer (Pap smears) have been issued by the American Cancer Society, the American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology, and the American Society for Clinical Pathology, and endorsed by the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Please keep in mind that these new screening guidelines pertain only to the collection of the Pap smear, and not to the recommendation and need for an annual pelvic and breast exam. **Even though the Pap smear may be performed less frequently, WE STILL RECOMMEND AN ANNUAL GYNECOLOGIC EXAM both for your good health and as required by law to prescribe or renew medications.**

Population	Recommendation
Women younger than 21	No screening
Women aged 21-29	Pap smear alone every 3 years
Women aged 30-65	Pap smear and HPV co-testing every 5 years (preferred) OR Pap smear alone every 3 years
Women who have had a total hysterectomy or are over age 65	No screening is necessary unless the woman has had cervical cancer or pre-cancer in the last 20 years.

Note that these guidelines are not used for women who have had cervical cancer, have an HIV infection, are immunocompromised, or were exposed to DES in utero.