Cervical Cancer Screening

Health care providers use a Pap test to screen for cervical cancer, one of the most preventable cancers.

A Pap test is a simple screening test that is usually done by a health care provider in his or her office and can help prevent cervical cancer. A Pap test looks for abnormal cell changes of the cervix, which can sometimes lead to cancer.

What does OHIP fund?

OHIP funds cervical cancer screening for women.

What changes are included in the 2012 Physician Services Agreement and why?

- The Schedule of Benefits for physician services will be amended to cover cervical cancer screening based on the latest recommendations from Cancer Care Ontario.
- Cancer Care Ontario recently updated their recommendations for how often women should have Pap tests to screen for cervical cancer and when they should start to screen.
- The new recommendations say that women should start to screen at age 21 and then be screened every three years using a Pap test until the age of 70.
- This change in guidelines to screen every three years is based on the latest clinical evidence for cervical cancer screening.
- Regardless of sexual activity, according to Cancer Care Ontario, there is no evidence to support screening women under 21 years of age.
- Pap tests can stop at 70 years of age in women who have had three or more normal tests in the prior 10 years.

Will patients continue to be funded by OHIP for cervical cancer screening?

Yes, patients will continue to be funded by OHIP for cervical cancer screening using the Pap test when provided according to Cancer Care Ontario recommendations.

What are the savings from this change in the first and second years of the Agreement?

- Physician fee savings: $1.0 million (2012/13); $4.1 million (2013/14)
• Savings or efficiencies in the healthcare system: $1.5 million (2012/13); $6.1 million (2013/14)

**When is this change effective?**
This change is effective on Jan. 1, 2013.

**Supporting Evidence and For More Information**

OHIP InfoBulletin #4585

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/ohip/bulletins/4000/bul4585.pdf

Updated Cancer Care Ontario Cervical Screening Cytology (Pap test) Guidelines
https://www.cancercare.on.ca/pcs/screening/cervscreening/