

What is the Cervical Screening Test?

The Cervical Screening Test looks for human papillomavirus (HPV) — a common virus that causes almost all cervical cancer.

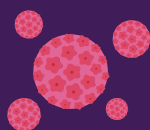
Most cases of HPV have no symptoms and clear up on their own, but if HPV stays in the body for a long time, it can cause changes to cells in the cervix. These changes can sometimes turn into cancer.

The Cervical Screening Test can find HPV or changes in the cervix early so they're easier to monitor or treat before cancer has a chance to develop.



Did you know?

Australia switched from the 2-yearly Pap test (also known as the Pap smear) to the 5-yearly Cervical Screening Test in 2017.



It's 1 quick test for peace of mind

The test is free under Medicare every 5 years.
Check with your healthcare clinic or practice if they charge any consultation fees.



Australian Government

NATIONAL
CERVICAL SCREENING
PROGRAM

A joint Australian, state and territory government program



Visit health.gov.au/ncsp for more information on cervical screening

Resources in 25+ languages are also available at health.gov.au/ncsp-multicultural

Cervical screening could save your life

If you're a woman or person with a cervix aged **25 to 74**, you should have a Cervical Screening Test every 5 years.

You can choose how you'd like to screen

There are two options. Both options are safe and accurate at detecting HPV.



Self-collect

Doing your own Cervical Screening Test is an option for anyone doing their 5-yearly screening. You use a thin, soft swab to take a sample from your vagina. You do not need to reach your cervix.



Healthcare provider-collect

Your healthcare provider will take a sample from your cervix using a speculum and a soft brush.



Test samples are checked for HPV. If HPV is found in a self-collected test, you will need to return for a healthcare provider-collected test. If HPV is found in a healthcare provider-collected test, the same sample can be used to look for any further changes.



Talk to your healthcare provider about which option is best for you.

Who should have a Cervical Screening Test?

Women and people with a cervix aged 25 to 74 who have ever had sexual contact (of any kind, with anyone), should have a Cervical Screening Test **every 5 years**.



You should have a Cervical Screening Test even if you:

- have had the HPV vaccine
- have only had one sexual partner
- have only had sexual contact once, or not for a long time
- are lesbian, gay or bisexual
- are gender-diverse and have a cervix
- are pregnant or have had a baby
- are going through perimenopause or have finished menopause

If you've had a hysterectomy, please check with your healthcare provider about screening.



Getting your Cervical Screening Test

The cervical screening program will send you a reminder when you're due.

You can also check when you're next due with your healthcare provider or the **National Cancer Screening Register via MyGov**.

You can book your Cervical Screening Test wherever you usually go for your healthcare:

- your local doctor's clinic
- a community health centre
- a women's health centre
- a family planning clinic
- a sexual health clinic

If you have any symptoms of cervical cancer, such as unusual vaginal bleeding, **speak with your healthcare provider as soon as possible**, regardless of when you last had a Cervical Screening Test.

