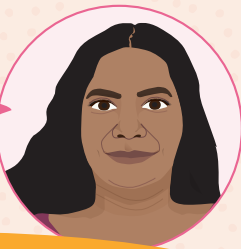


When will I get my results Aunty? What will happen?



Your doctor or nurse will let you know when your results should come in. Sometimes they might want to see you for another appointment. This doesn't mean there is something wrong. If your test comes back positive for HPV, you may be at risk of developing cervical cancer in the future. You will be closely monitored until your body clears the virus or offered treatment before cancer develops. If you had a self-collected sample, you might be offered a further test by the doctor or nurse. If your result does not find HPV, you will be due for another Cervical Screening Test in 5 years.



But Aunty, what if I have been vaccinated for HPV? Do I still need to test?

Yes you do. The HPV vaccine (Gardasil) lowers your risk of developing cervical cancer. It protects you against the main types of HPV that cause most cervical cancers, but not all of them. So even if you are vaccinated, you still need to have regular Cervical Screening Tests.



Well that's good to know. There's a Family Planning clinic down the street, I might call in there and make an appointment.



Getting a Cervical Screening Test is the best way to make sure your cervix stays healthy

The Cervical Screening Test

What does it test for?	Detects HPV – a common virus that causes most cervical cell changes and almost all cervical cancers – before any abnormalities develop
How often?	Every 5 years
When to start?	You will be invited from the age of 25 years
When to stop?	You will have your last Cervical Screening Test between 70 – 74 years of age

The Cervical Screening Test is safe. Regular Cervical Screening Tests make sure you stay healthy for those in your family and community.

For more information or to make an appointment, please visit fnsw.org.au/cervicalscreening or call 1300 372 372



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Yarning about Cervical Screening Tests



Yarning about Cervical Screening Tests

Hey Niece, let's have a yarn about getting a Cervical Screening Test done to make sure we stay healthy.

What is a Cervical Screening Test anyway, Aunty?

It's a simple test that looks for signs of the human papilloma virus (HPV). HPV can cause cancer of the cervix (the opening of the womb). Not everyone who has HPV gets cancer.

Well how do I know if I need to get a Cervical Screening Test, Aunty?

Everyone with a cervix aged 25-74 who has ever been sexually active should have a test every 5 years. You should receive a letter in the post inviting you to get tested. If you have pain or unusual bleeding between your periods or after sex, you need to see the doctor straight away.

So are you getting a Cervical Screening Test too Aunty

I sure am.

Ok that's good to know. So how do I get the Cervical Screening Test done then Aunty?

Making an appointment and where to go

Make an appointment at either:

- Your local GP
- Family Planning Australia clinic
- Your local Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS)

You can give them a ring or go into the clinic to tell them you want to make an appointment.

To feel more comfortable, you can ask for a female doctor or nurse or bring someone with you.

Where you get the test done is your business. Some women want to go somewhere where they don't normally go.

How a Cervical Screening Test is done

The test is simple and only takes a few minutes. The doctor or nurse will let you know what will happen during the test. Knowing what to expect relaxes you and makes the test more comfortable.

You can now choose from two ways to have your Cervical Screening Test. Both tests are equally accurate.

1 Collecting your own sample (self-collection):

You will be given a swab to gently insert into your vagina (similar to inserting a tampon). This will be done in a private area. You then give the swab back to your doctor or nurse to be sent away for testing. You can also ask your doctor or nurse for help if you need to.



2 Having your doctor or nurse collect your sample:

In a private room, your doctor or nurse will gently insert a speculum into your vagina and use a little brush to collect a sample. The test should not hurt, but it might feel a little uncomfortable.

