

Results

- Ask the doctor or nurse when you will find out about the results.
- They might want to call you back, but that doesn't mean there's something wrong.
- There are heaps of reasons the doctor might want to see you again.
- If the test finds something wrong, the earlier they find it the easier it is to treat.

Yarning about Cervical Screening Tests



Cervical screening has changed. From December 2017, there is a new Cervical Screening Test, replacing the old Pap test. For more information, please visit <https://www.fpnsw.org.au/cervicalscreening>

	New Cervical Screening Test	Old Pap test
What does it test for?	Cells from the cervix are tested for HPV infection	Cells from the cervix examined for any abnormal changes
How often?	Every 5 years	Every 2 years
When to start?	Women will be invited from the age of 25 years	18 years
When to stop?	Women will have their last Cervical Screening Test between 70 and 74 years of age	69 years

The new test is safe and better. This is because it checks for a virus that can cause changes to the cells in your cervix.



This project is funded by the Cancer Institute NSW

www.fpnsw.org.au | talkline 1300 658 886 | shop

clinical services & information | education & training | research | international development
Family Planning NSW is a not-for-profit organisation funded by the NSW Ministry of Health

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Yarning about Cervical Screening Tests

But Aunty, if I go for a test then everyone will know I've been having sex.



No one will know why you went to the appointment. Everything that you say and what happens with the doctor or nurse is private. Health workers always keep your information private.




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




That's good. We need to stay strong and healthy for our mob. I'll come with you and make an appointment too.




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, Auntie?




It tests to see if you have 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 have a Cervical Screening Test done?



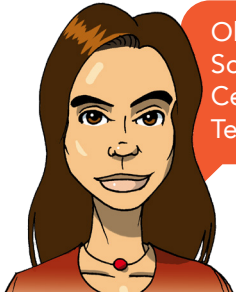
Every woman from 25-74 should have a test every 5 years. You should receive a letter in the mail inviting you to get tested. If you have pain or unusual bleeding between your periods or after sex, you need to see the doctor straight away.



So are you getting a Cervical Screening Test too Auntie?



I sure am.



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

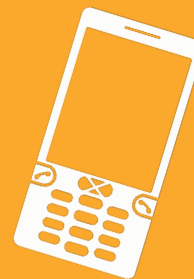
Making an appointment and where to go

Make an appointment at:

- Your local AMS
- Family Planning NSW clinic
- Your local GP

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 nurse or doctor.


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 quick and simple and only takes a few minutes. Before you have it done, ask the doctor or nurse to explain what happens. Knowing what to expect relaxes you and makes the test easier. If you have ever had a Pap test before, the way this test is done will feel the same.

The doctor or nurse will show you how they do the test. When you are ready, they will ask you to get undressed from the waist down. Sometimes wearing a dress is easier. They then put something called a speculum inside your vagina to help them see the cervix. They use a little brush to get some cells to test. It shouldn't hurt at all, but you might feel a bit of discomfort.



Can I do the test myself if I'm feeling shame auntie?

It is best to talk with your doctor or nurse as some women can collect their own sample using a swab. This is called self-collection.

A self-collection test is less accurate than a test performed by a doctor or nurse, so most times a doctor will recommend they do it.

