

## **Pap Testing Recommendations**

Pap testing recommendations from the *U.S. Preventive Services Task Force* (2012), the *American Cancer Society* (2012), and the *American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists* (2012) all indicate the same screening criteria. See below:

- Recommend screening for cervical cancer in women ages 21 to 65 years with cytology (Pap smear) every 3 years or, for women ages 30 to 65 years who want to lengthen the screening interval, screening with a combination of cytology and human papillomavirus (HPV) testing every 5 years.
- Recommend against screening for cervical cancer in women younger than age 21 years.
- Recommend against screening for cervical cancer in women older than age 65 years who have had adequate prior screening and are not otherwise at high risk for cervical cancer.
- Recommend against screening for cervical cancer in women who have had a hysterectomy with removal of the cervix and who do not have a history of a high-grade precancerous lesion (i.e., cervical intraepithelial neoplasia [CIN] grade 2 or 3) or cervical cancer.
- Recommend against screening for cervical cancer with HPV testing, alone or in combination with cytology, in women younger than age 30 years.

## **Sources**

U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. <http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/uspscerv.htm>

American Cancer Society. <http://www.cancer.org>

American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. <http://www.acog.org>

**For more detail on specific guidelines from each organization, please visit:**

**<http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/cervical/pdf/guidelines.pdf>.**