



STATE OF MARYLAND
DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

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Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lieutenant Governor – John Colmers, Secretary

Family Health Administration

Russell W. Moy, M.D., M.P.H., Director - Joan H. Salim, Deputy Director

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 13, 2010

To: Maryland Family Planning Program Site Providers

From: Marsha Smith, MD, MPH, Medical Director Perinatal and Reproductive Health

Re: Family Planning Clinical Practice Update: Cervical Cytology Screening

As you may already be aware the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists revised guidelines for cervical cytology screening in November of 2009. These guidelines were published in the December issue of Obstetrics & Gynecology. Practice Bulletin ##109 "Cervical Cytology Screening" and can be viewed at http://www.acog.org/publications/educational_bulletins/pb109.cfm. This information was reviewed and distributed at the March 19, 2010 Family Planning Program Clinical Staff meeting in Annapolis.

Important changes in recommendations for cervical cytology screening as referenced in the ACOG Practice Bulletin include:

- Cervical cytology screening should begin at age 21 years (regardless of sexual history). Screening before age 21 should be avoided because women less than 21 years old are at very low risk of cancer. Screening these women may lead to unnecessary and harmful evaluation and treatment.
- Cervical cytology screening is recommended every 2 years for women between the ages of 21 years and 29 years. Evidence shows that screening women every year has little benefit over screening every other year.

2006 Consensus Guidelines for abnormal cytology and histology are available and downloadable as algorithms at www.asccp.org <http://www.asccp.org>. The most current 2009 Cervical Cytology Screening ACOG Practice Bulletin is available at www.acog.org <http://www.acog.org> (but is also attached).

This Memo serves as notification that these recommendations supersede recommendations in the Family Planning Clinical Guidelines. A copy of this Memo serves as a Clinical Practice Update and should be added to your delegate agency/service binder that contains the Clinical Guidelines in the section referencing Cervical Cancer Screening. When implementing a clinical guideline or recommendation for change in a clinical practice standard, Maryland Family Planning Program delegate agency/clinical services site must also allow for the use of clinical judgment. Individualization of the care and incorporation of individual patient characteristics must be included in the context of those guidelines, recommendations, or practice standards. Please contact me if you have any questions.

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