



**BlueCross BlueShield
of Texas**

The Importance of Cervical Cancer Screening (CCS)

Why is Cervical Cancer Screening Important?

Cervical cancer is a slow-growing cancer that usually starts without symptoms. The [Human Papillomavirus \(HPV\)](#) is the leading cause of this disease. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), when cervical cancer is detected at an early stage, the five-year survival rate is over 90%. Health care providers know that regular screenings can detect cancer early, even before symptoms start. However, many patients are unaware of the need for and benefits of cervical cancer screening (CCS). The following is a link to help your patients learn more on the subject from the CDC [What should I know about Screening?](#)

The [National Committee for Quality Assurance \(NCQA\)](#) recognizes cervical cancer screening as a quality measure and is now a Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) Hybrid measure for the upcoming season. The NCQA uses the following criteria for CCS screenings for women 21-64 years of age as follows:

- Women 21-64 years of age - cervical cytology (PAP test) performed every three years.
- Women 30-64 years of age- cervical high-risk human papillomavirus (hrHPV) testing performed every five years or
- cervical cytology/high-risk human papillomavirus (hrHPV) co-testing within every five years.

Additional information located in our HEDIS Tips Sheet for [Cervical Cancer Screening](#).

Share [member-friendly resources](#), and talk with members about [risk reduction and prevention](#) such as:

- Having regular screening starting at age 21
- Considering the HPV vaccine through age 45
- Limiting sexual partners
- Using condoms during sex
- Stopping smoking

Please include the proper codes when filing claims. Proper coding can help identify gaps in care, provide accurate data and streamline your administrative processes.

Reference and review the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas ([BCBSTX Preventive Care Guidelines \(PCGs\)](#)), [Clinical Practice Guidelines \(CPGs\)](#), and Texas Health Steps [THSteps for Medical Providers](#), which includes all current vaccine schedules, [ImmTrac2](#) and other important guidance for treating your patients.

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