

Health Recommendations for Women > 65 Years Old

Pap Test Guidelines:

- Pap test **every 3 years** after 3 normal Paps in a row if you:
 - do not have a history of moderate or severe dysplasia
 - do not have HIV or have a weakened immune system from medications
 - have not exposed to diethylstilbestrol (DES) before birth

These recommendations are new but studies have shown no increase in cervical cancer risk with this testing method. This is a safe option! Additionally, you may not need a pap test if you have had a hysterectomy!

Your Pap results will be sent to you via the portal system (if you participate) or by phone/mail. If you have not heard from us regarding your pap results in 4 weeks then please call us! NEVER assume your pap is normal if you have not received results from your physician!

Testing for Sexually Transmitted Diseases:

This is optional. If you have a history of an STD or known exposure or have multiple sexual partners then this may be offered to you. If you would like to be tested then let us know!

If you are not in a monogamous relationship, please protect yourself from STDs (like HIV and herpes that cannot be cured) by using condoms.

How to do Your Monthly Breast Exams:

- Lie down and place one arm behind your head.
- Use the pads of your fingers on the opposite hand to feel for lumps. Use overlapping dime-sized circular motions of the finger pads to feel the breast tissue.
- Move up and down (like a lawn mower) and move across the entire breast-going as high as your collar bone. Make sure you also examine your arm pit, as well.
- Repeat the exam on the opposite breast.
- Then stand in front of a mirror with your hands pressing firmly down on your hips, look for any changes of size, shape, contour, or dimpling, or redness or scaliness of the nipple or breast skin.
- IMMEDIATELY report any breast changes or lumps to me!
- **In addition, we recommend a mammogram every year (however, Medicare will cover mammograms only every 2 years).**

Blood Tests:

- Fasting blood glucose (to assess for Diabetes)
- thyroid hormone
- cholesterol panel

Your blood results will be sent to you via the portal system (if you participate) or by phone/mail. If you have not heard from us regarding your blood results in 4 weeks then please call us!

Other Screenings:

- Dexascan to evaluate for osteoporosis (Medicare will cover only every 2 years and only if you are at high risk)
- Colonoscopy to evaluate for colon cancer (every 10 years)
- Urine dip for blood (to evaluate for bladder cancer – annually)

Diet

Eat more vegetables! Eat a variety of fruit and switch to “whole-grain” bread, cereal, crackers, rice or pasta.

Drink less fruit juices. They have a lot of sugar and calories! Instead drink low-fat or fat-free milk (choose lactose-free products if necessary). **To find out more information on healthy diets, then please ask for an appointment with our dietician, Tanya Davis, or visit www.mypyramid.gov.**

Supplement your diet with daily calcium (1,000 mg) and a multivitamin. Consider taking a baby aspirin a day to reduce the risk of stroke.

Exercise

Try to get vigorous exercise in for about an hour a day at least 3 days a week:

Aerobic Exercise-includes sports like tennis as well as brisk walking, running, cycling, or swimming. Always make sure you're wearing the proper protective gear.

Muscle-Strengthening-exercises like squats, pushups or crunches, using weights, machines, or your own body weight. Work with a coach or trainer to make sure you know the right exercises to do and how to do them correctly.

Healthy Lifestyle

Avoid alcohol, cigarettes and drugs.

Brush and floss your teeth everyday to maintain a beautiful clean smile! Get regular dental checkups.

Get recommended hearing screenings and annual eye exams.

Skin exams by a dermatologist is recommended for women with any changing skin lesion, fair skin, a personal or family history of skin cancer, or increased exposure to sunlight.

Vaccinations

We recommend the following vaccinations (obtain them through your primary care physician or Health Department):

- Tetanus
- Annual Influenza
- Varicella (chicken pox)
- Herpes Zoster
- Pneumococcal

Partner Violence

YOU DO HAVE OPTIONS!

Here is an excellent local resource: The Refuge House at www.refugehouse.com or call them at (850) 922-6062. Your call is confidential. They want to help!

Injury Prevention

Wear your seatbelt at all times when in a vehicle!

Do not drink and drive or ride with anyone who does.

Resolve conflicts without violence. Please be careful with loaded guns in the house and lock them away for safe-keeping!

Use good body mechanics when lifting.

Protect your skin from cancerous UV rays with SPF of 15 or higher.

If at anytime, you are thinking of harming yourself or others because of your personal circumstances then GET HELP before taking action! Call a friend, go to the ER or call the 24 Hour Suicide Hotline here in Tallahassee (617-6333).

Live Well!

Shannon Price, MD