



An Anthem Company

[Date]

[Provider name]

[Provider address]

[Provider address 2]

[City, State ZIP code]

**Update: Routine cervical cancer screening**

Dear Provider:

We recently communicated with you regarding cervical cancer screening coverage for women younger than 21 years of age. This communication provides new coverage information on the frequency of cervical cancer screening of women at average risk. It does not address women with a history of prior abnormal results, pre-cancerous cervical lesions, cervical cancer or those who are immunocompromised.

**Additional coverage information**

As previously communicated, routine screening pap testing will not be reimbursed for women younger than 21 years of age. In addition, effective [insert date 90 days from alert mailing] routine screening frequency for women age 21 to 65 will be reimbursed no more frequently than once every three years. Also, reimbursement for routine pap testing for women 66 and older, with prior negative screening results, will be denied.

**Screening method and intervals**

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force<sup>1</sup>, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists<sup>2</sup>, the American Cancer Society<sup>3</sup>, the American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology and the American Society for Clinical Pathology all agree that the optimal screening interval is not more frequently than every three years.

<b>Population</b>	<b>Recommended screening</b>
Women younger than 21 years	No screening
Women aged 21-29 years	Cervical pap alone every three years
Women aged 30-65 years	Human papillomavirus (HPV) and cervical pap co-testing every five years or cervical pap alone every three years
Women older than 65 years	No screening is necessary after adequate negative prior screening results
Women who underwent total hysterectomy (with no residual cervix)	No screening is necessary

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We encourage you to adopt this medical society and industry recommendation in the interest of improving patient quality and reducing harm from unnecessary follow up.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sajidah Husain, Medical Director  
Empire BlueCross BlueShield HealthPlus

1. United States Preventive Services

Task Force. Cervical Cancer. March 2012.

2. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Practice Bulletin Number 157: Screening for Cervical Cancer. *Obstet Gynecol.* 2016; 127:e1-20.

3. Saslow D, Solomon D, Lawson HW, et al. American Cancer Society, American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology, and American Society for Clinical Pathology screening guidelines for the prevention and early detection of cervical cancer. *CA Cancer J Clin* 2012; 62:147-72.