

JANUARY IS CERVICAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Vaccination and Screening Can Help Prevent Cervical Cancer

Approximately 4,000 women die from cervical cancer in the United States every year. January has been designated as Cervical Cancer Awareness Month by the United States Congress to emphasize the importance of vaccination and early detection through appropriate screenings.

A major cause of cervical cancer is the human papilloma virus (HPV). HPV vaccination can help protect from multiple types of HPV infection. HPV vaccination is routinely recommended at age 11-12 years (can start at age 9 years). Effective September 1, 2020, aligning with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the Centers of Disease Control (CDC), Highmark expanded the HPV Vaccine age guidelines to include high-risk adults 27 through 45 years of age.

Cervical cancer is preventable with HPV vaccination and regular screenings (Pap and/or HPV tests). Early detection helps in identifying cervical cancer early when it is easier to treat.

Resources Available on the Provider Resource Center

Screenings are essential to cervical cancer prevention. Highmark provides the resources below to share the importance of prevention with your patients and staff. You can order printed copies to make available to your patients during office visits or for mailing to their homes.

- Cervical Cancer Brochure
- Cervical Cancer Screening Flyer
- Cervical Cancer Screening Reminder Card

To access and order these resources, select **EDUCATION/MANUALS** from the main menu on the Provider Resource Center, and then click on **Educational Resources – Member and Provider** in the submenu.

Highmark Preventive Health Guidelines

We encourage you to consult our Preventive Health Guidelines when planning care for your patients with Highmark coverage. And we thank you for your partnership in addressing their health care needs.

Highmark Preventive Health Guidelines include cervical cancer screenings and HPV vaccinations for eligible members. To access the Preventive Health Guidelines on the Provider Resource Center, select **EDUCATION/MANUALS**, and then click on **Preventive Health Guidelines**.

Please note that most, although not all, of our customer groups follow the Highmark Preventive Schedule. Therefore, not all Highmark members may have coverage for services on the preventive schedule.

As always, we recommend verifying a member's eligibility and benefits prior to providing services. You can verify a Highmark member's coverage by using the Eligibility and Benefits transaction in NaviNet®, performing an electronic HIPAA 270 Eligibility/Benefit Inquiry transaction, or by calling the Provider Service Center.