

Special Bulletin

For professional providers

January 3, 2023

January Is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

Vaccination and Screening Can Help Prevent Cervical Cancer

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 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 U.S. 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). The HPV vaccination is a two-dose series: the first dose is recommended at age 11–12 years (can start at age 9 years) and the second 6–12 months later. **Note:** HPV Vaccine age guidelines do include high-risk adults 27 through 45 years of age.

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

Resources for Patients

Highmark has resources available that emphasize the importance of preventive health screenings for female patients. You can order free copies of the following materials to share with patients during their visit:

- [Cervical Cancer Brochure](#)
- [Cervical Cancer Screening Flyer](#)
- [Cervical Cancer Screening Reminder Card](#)
- [HPV Information Card – Things Parents Should Know About Preventing Cancer](#)
- [Health Screening and Vaccination Tracker](#) (also available in [Spanish](#))

To order one of the above resources, go to the **Provider Resource Center > EDUCATION/MANUALS > Inventory Request Form > Select Printable Item**. Click the down arrow and then select the items you wish to order. Complete the form and click the **ADD TO ORDER** button.

Highmark Preventive Health Guidelines

Highmark Preventive Health Guidelines include cervical cancer screenings for eligible members.

To access the Preventive Health Guidelines, go to the **Provider Resource Center > EDUCATION/MANUALS > Preventive Health Guidelines > Children Ages 7–18 Guidelines OR Adult Ages 19–64 Guidelines.**

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

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