

# PAP TEST

## FACT SHEET

### for MATURE WOMEN

#### As a mature woman, do I still need a Pap test?

In Nova Scotia, it is recommended that all women have regular Pap tests up to age 75. Once you reach age 75, you can stop having Pap tests **ONLY** if you have an adequate negative screening history (that is, 3 or more negative (normal) tests since age 65). If you are uncertain, talk with your doctor about whether you need a Pap test.

#### Do I need a Pap test if I am menopausal?

Yes, if you are under 75 you still need a Pap test even though you have stopped having periods.

#### Do I still need a Pap test if I've had a hysterectomy?

The following guide reflects the current recommendations and practices for Pap screening of women who have had a hysterectomy:

- For women who have had a subtotal hysterectomy (cervix still present) **Screening every two years**
- For women who have had a total hysterectomy (cervix removed) and had treatment for cervical dysplasia or have a history of cancer of the cervix **Annual/yearly screening**
- For women who have had a total hysterectomy (cervix removed) and no treatment for cervical dysplasia or history of cancer of the cervix **No Pap test required**
- For women who have had a total hysterectomy and no Pap test history known **Have three negative Pap tests, then stop.**



For more  
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