

Until December,  
2017, it's still...  
'Every woman.  
Every two years.'



### Can't I just get the HPV test done now?

A Medicare rebate won't be available for the HPV screening test until December, 2017.

Despite this, we have had many enquiries from women who are due for screening and would like the added reassurance of knowing their HPV status now.

An HPV test can be added to your liquid-based cytology tests for a private fee of \$65.

Please speak to your doctor about this option.

### Should I wait until December then?

No, it's important that you present for your screening test as soon as it is due and don't delay it until the new changes come into place.

### What should I do now?

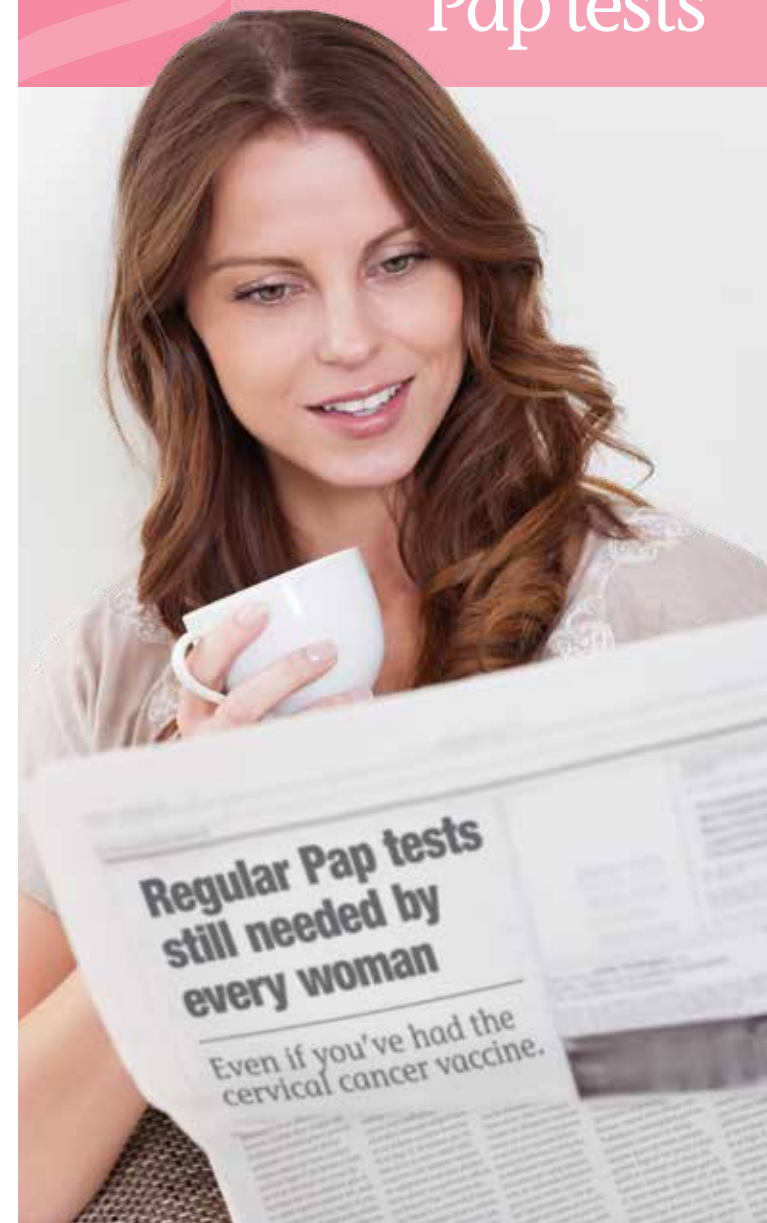
The message is clear. Don't take your health for granted.

Keep having a Pap test every two years until the new changes to the Cervical Screening Program have come into effect.

Of course, if you have any symptoms, such as bleeding, pain or discharge, make sure you consult your doctor.

Information correct at the time of printing - May 2017

Keep having  
Pap tests



There's been lots of discussion in the news lately about changes to women's cervical cancer screening.

These changes will now be implemented in December, 2017. Until then, it's important to continue to have two-yearly Pap tests, regardless of whether you have had the HPV vaccine.

Australian women have access to one of the most successful cervical screening programs in the world. One of the reasons that it has been so successful is that women have done their part by having their regular two-yearly Pap tests. But the program will only be effective if women understand that they need to keep being screened every two years until the new changes are fully implemented.



## Um, what does a Pap test actually check for?

Put simply, a Pap test checks for changes to the cells of the cervix that may lead to cervical cancer if left untreated.

## Who should have a Pap test?

Every woman who has ever had sex should have regular Pap tests, because it gives you the best chance of detecting pre-cancerous cells while they can be easily treated.

## I usually get a Pap smear, but is there another kind of Pap test?

The Pap smear is the most common screening test funded by Medicare.

GynaePath also offers ThinPrep® liquid-based cytology with Imager.

Australian data shows that ThinPrep with Imager can be more effective in detecting significantly abnormal cases than the Pap smear.

From May 1, 2017 until December, 2017 a Medicare rebate will be available for ThinPrep OR for a Pap test (but not both).

Your doctor can provide advice on which test is right for you.

## If I've had the HPV vaccine, do I still need to be tested?

Absolutely. There's a misconception among some young women that the HPV vaccine means that they no longer need regular Pap tests, but this simply isn't true. Vaccinated women should have two-yearly Pap tests like everyone else.

Recent research revealed an alarming trend among Australian women aged between 25 and 29, who are not presenting for Pap tests in the same numbers as they used to.

So if you are vaccinated — or you know a young woman who is vaccinated — make sure that two-yearly testing is continued until the new changes are announced.

## What is the new program?

Instead of having two-yearly Pap tests, the new program will use HPV testing. It is a different methodology that only requires testing every five years.

## When will the new program come into effect?

It is expected that the new program will come into effect in December, 2017. A strong advertising and communications campaign will surround the changes, so that all women are properly informed.

## So can't I just wait another five years to have my next test?

The five-year time interval will only apply to the new HPV test. Pap tests need to be performed at more regular intervals in order to be effective. That means, until December, 2017, you need to keep screening every two years (or more frequently if any abnormalities have been detected).