

## Pap Smear Consent

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

A pap test is a screening test to find changes in cells of the cervix that could lead to cancer. In 2017, an estimated 12,280 new cervical cancer cases are expected to be diagnosed in the US and 4,210 women are expected to die from it. Most cases of cervical cancer are caused by an infection with HPV. HPV is a virus that enters cells and causes them to change. Pap tests are only a small part of a wellness exam by a gynecologist or women's health nurse practitioner. Annual wellness visits can help spot potential problems before they become serious and preventative care is about taking measures for disease prevention.

Kentucky ranks 9th in the country for new cases of cervical cancer and rates 6th in the U.S. for cervical cancer death. Kentucky has a 21% higher risk of dying from cervical cancer than the overall United States population. Because of this and her experience Dr. Horn does not necessarily recommend following ACOG guidelines and feels that the frequency of pap smears should be individualized.

Dr. Horn recommends having a wellness exam yearly and pap tests every 2-3 years with periodic co-testing of HPV. She also recommends periodic pap tests after 65 and for hysterectomy patients with a history of abnormal pap results or a new sexual partner.

### Pap smear guidelines from The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)

- Women from ages 21-30 should have a pap smear every three years instead of each year (unless they have had a previous abnormal pap smear within the past year).
- Women ages 30 and older who have had 3 normal pap smears in a row should have a pap smear every 3 years. *Or co-testing with cervical cytology and high-risk HPV every 5 years (preferred)*
- Women who have had a hysterectomy for **non-cancerous reasons** do not need a pap smear unless they have a cervix. (Dr. Horn suggests it if you have had a new sexual partner).
- Women who have had a hysterectomy for **cancerous reasons** (whether or not the cervix was removed) should have a pap smear based on the ACOG guidelines for their age group (see above).
- Women with certain risk factors may need more frequent screening, including those who have HIV, weakened immune systems, women born to mothers who took diethylstilbestrol (DED) while they were pregnant, and those treated for cervical cancer.
- These guidelines need to be followed whether you have or have not had the HPV vaccine.
- If you have ever had an abnormal Pap smear, consult with your healthcare provider concerning how often you will need a pap smear.

I have read the above information and choose to have a PAP test:

- Every year
- Every 2-3 years
- Every 5 years
- Never
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_