

## **Testing at your Annual Exam**

As part of your Annual Exam your provider may recommend screening for Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) in addition to a Pap smear. HPV is the virus that is responsible for causing nearly all cases of cervical cancer. Infection with this virus is extremely common with an estimated risk of infection of 80-85% over a lifetime. Most infections resolve over time but some persist for years. HPV is spread through sexual contact including, but not limited to, vaginal intercourse.

HPV testing is currently recommended for all women over age 30 for a more comprehensive evaluation of the risk of cervical abnormalities. If the Pap test is normal and the HPV test is negative, it may not be necessary to repeat these tests annually. If either the Pap is abnormal or the HPV test is positive you may need further testing at no more than a one year interval. It is important to note that while you may only need a Pap test and HPV screening every 3 years, you still need an annual breast and pelvic exam.

Although HPV screening is recommended for women over age 30, not all insurances may cover the cost of this test. If you elect to have this test you may receive a bill for the cost. It is important for you to call your insurance company to check to see if they cover this test as a screening tool. You will need to give your insurance company the CPT procedure code of 87621 and the diagnosis code of v73.81. If your insurance company does not cover this screening test and you would like to know what the cost of the test is you must call the lab to obtain this information. Our office does not perform or charge for this test so we are not able to answer questions regarding it's cost.