

Date

Benefits Manager
Any Company USA
101 Main Street
Anywhere, State 10001

Dear Benefits Manager:

I recently had my annual visit with my gynecologist and was offered a new test used in cervical cancer screening. The test I received checks for types of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV), which is the primary cause of cervical cancer. In March 2003 the FDA approved this HPV test for use together with a Pap test to aid physicians when screening women aged 30 and over for cervical cancer. My physician provided me with the following information regarding HPV and cervical cancer:

- Cervical cancer develops if a cancer-causing (or “high-risk”) HPV infection persists for many years.
- The Pap test looks for abnormal cell changes on the cervix that occur as a result of a persistent high-risk HPV infection. The Pap test can only detect cancerous or pre-cancerous cells about 50-85% of the time when used alone.
- The HPV test looks for a high-risk HPV infection.
- When used with a Pap test, the HPV test can provide nearly 100% certainty that a woman does not have cervical disease. Women who test negative for high-risk HPV and have a normal Pap are at virtually no risk of developing cervical cancer before their next scheduled visit.
- HPV testing helps patients and providers determine how often cervical cancer screening should occur based on a women’s risk of having or developing disease.
- Using HPV and Pap testing together allows physicians to more accurately focus follow-up procedures that lead to early detection and treatment of pre-cancerous cells, which is the key to *preventing* cervical cancer.

My physician prides herself/himself on offering her/his patients the most advanced preventative care available. After learning about the HPV test, and knowing that the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and the American Cancer Society both recommend its use for cervical cancer screening of women my age, I readily agreed to have the test performed.

Unfortunately my health insurance did not cover the cost of the test. I was informed by (Any Payer) that I did not have coverage because my plan offers limited preventative services. I urge you to review the preventative services allowed through the (HMO/PPO/POS/ETC) plan that Any Company USA offers and add the HPV test to this benefit.

The addition of the HPV test to our preventative services benefit is a positive step in keeping our company’s women healthy. Additionally, preventing cervical disease from developing into invasive cervical cancer will help keep health insurance premiums affordable in the future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Any Employee
Any Department