



October 22, 2010

SASKATCHEWAN CANCER AGENCY

EARLY DETECTION OF CERVICAL CANCER SAVES LIVES

Taking the time to get a Pap test could make a difference and save a woman's life. October 22-October 28 marks Cervical Screening Awareness Week across Canada and the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency is encouraging women to be screened for cervical cancer by booking a routine Pap test.

"Cervical cancer is highly preventable with regular screening," said Scott Livingstone, CEO of the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency. "Our goal during this week is to encourage women to schedule a Pap test with their doctor. They can either call their regular doctor or visit our website to find a listing of clinics that offer Pap tests."

The Saskatchewan Cancer Agency operates the Prevention Program for Cervical Cancer where women starting at the age of 21 are invited to participate by getting a Pap test. In 2011-12 more than 90,000 invitations were sent to eligible participants in the province.

"Having a regular Pap test can help detect and find cancer at an early stage when treatments are most successful," Livingstone said.

Cervical cancer is the third most common cause of cancer in Saskatchewan women. Approximately 80 per cent of cervical cancers, which are generally caused by the Human Papillomavirus (HPV), can be prevented with regular Pap tests.

For more information about the Prevention Program for Cervical Cancer call 1-800-667-0017 or visit www.saskcancer.ca.

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