

SCREENING PROGRAM FOR CERVICAL CANCER

A PROGRAM OF THE SASKATCHEWAN CANCER AGENCY

Cervical Cancer Facts

Cervical Cancer in Canada

- Each year, approximately 1,350 Canadian women are diagnosed with cervical cancer.
- Seven in 100,000 Canadian women will develop cervical cancer in their lifetime.
- The lifetime probability of a Canadian woman developing cervical cancer is estimated to be 1 in 168 and 1 in 478 will die from it.

Source: Canadian Cancer Society/National Cancer Institute of Canada, 2019: www.cancer.ca/statistics

Cervical Cancer in Saskatchewan

- Each year, approximately 40 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 10 die from the disease.
- Just under eight in 100,000 Saskatchewan women will develop cervical cancer in their lifetime.

Source: Canadian Cancer Society - Canadian Cancer Statistics 2019

Risk Factors

- Women who do not have regular Pap tests are at higher risk of cervical cancer.
- HPV causes almost all cervical cancer. People who have HPV may not show any signs or symptoms and can pass on the virus without even knowing it.
- People who smoke are at higher risk of cervical cancer, as well as other cancers.

Screening

- Cervical cancer is preventable.
- Women between the ages of 21-69 should have regular Pap tests.
- About 75 per cent of women will have at least one HPV infection during their lifetime. Only a few HPV infections go on to cause cancer.
- Infrequent or no Pap tests means that pre-cancer changes in the cervix may develop into cancer over time.

Screening Program for Cervical Cancer

The Screening Program for Cervical Cancer (SPCC) is a screening program of the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency dedicated to the prevention of cervical cancer.

The SPCC provides education about cervical cancer, informs women aged 21-69 when they are due for a Pap test, notifies women by mail of their Pap test result, and works with doctors and nurse practitioners to ensure appropriate follow-up of abnormal Pap test results. Approximately 49 per cent of all eligible women in Saskatchewan participate in the SPCC.

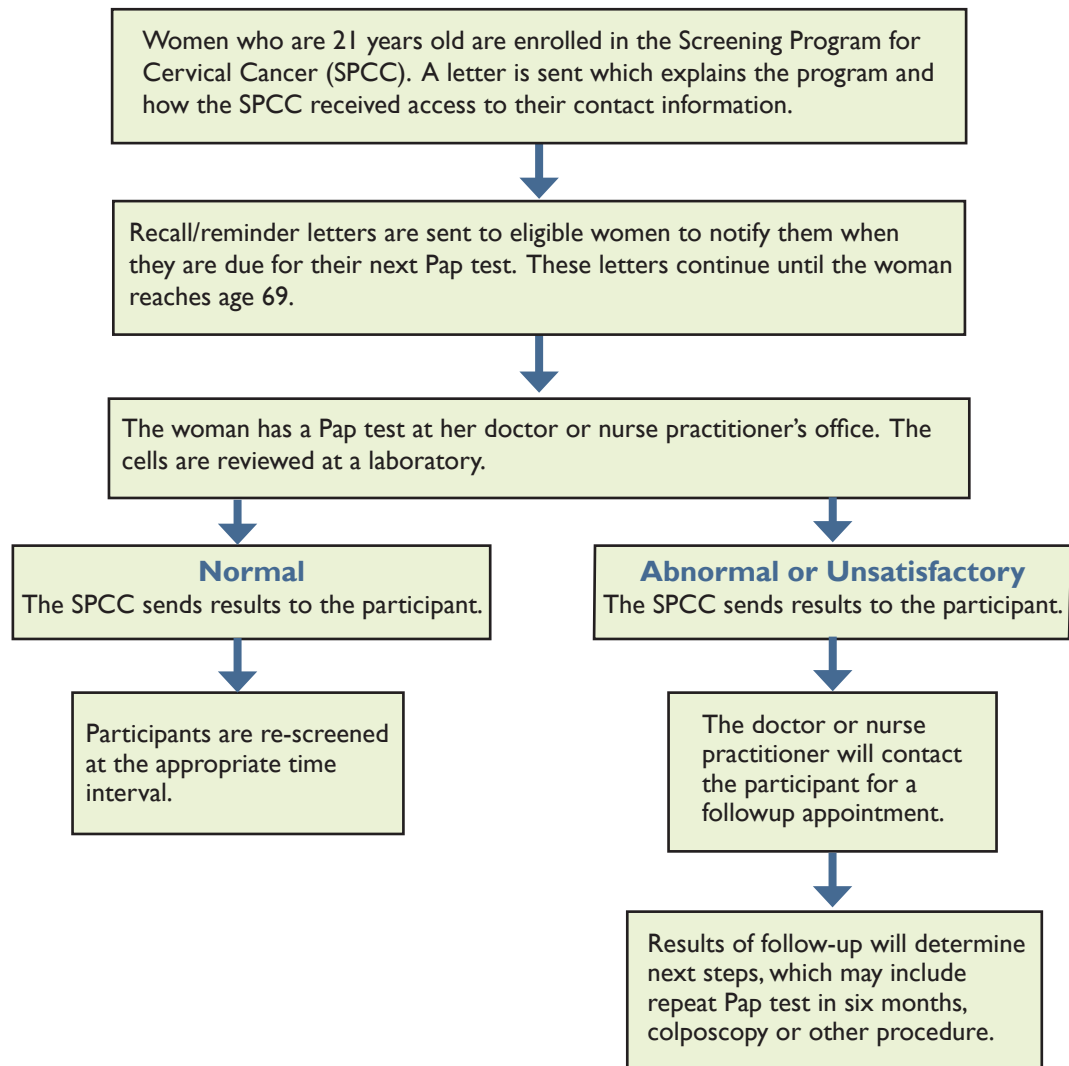


Screening Program for Cervical Cancer

Pap Test

- The Pap test is the main tool used to screen for cervical cancer. It is used to detect cancer or precancerous cells that may lead to cancer. The test is named after its inventor, George Papanicolaou.
- The Pap test is a quick and simple procedure. During a Pap test, cells are taken from the cervix and sent to a laboratory for assessment.
- Over a three-year time period, an average of 93,000 Pap tests were completed each year for women aged 21-69 participating in the SPCC (SPCC data from Jan. 1, 2017-Dec. 31, 2019).

Client Pathway



For more information about the Screening Program for Cervical Cancer visit saskcancer.ca.