



Louisiana Department of Health
Informational Bulletin 16-23
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Papanicolaou Test (Pap Test) Age Criteria

This bulletin provides notification of changes in age criteria for coverage of the Papanicolaou Test 23 (pap test) for cervical cytology screening for cervical cancer.

The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists guidelines (ACOG), the American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology (ASCCP), and the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommend that routine screening for cervical cancer should begin at 21 years of age regardless of the age of sexual initiation.

Historically, Louisiana Medicaid covered the pap test for recipients 10-99 years of age. Effective with dates of service on or after Jan. 1, 2017, Medicaid will no longer reimburse for routine cervical cancer screening for recipients under the age of 21 years.

Women younger than 21 years of age, with no medical indication, should not receive cervical cancer screening with a pap test regardless of the age of sexual initiation, but should still be offered human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination to prevent cervical cancer, be assessed at routine visits for sexual behaviors, and be screened for sexually transmitted infections and reproductive goals accordingly.

Pap testing may be medically indicated in recipients under the age of 21 years in certain clinical scenarios, such as recipients:

- diagnosed with human immunodeficiency virus;
- diagnosed with immunosuppression due to malignancy;
- already known to have cervical cancer;
- with a history of diethylstilbestrol exposure; or
- meeting criteria that are subsequently published by ACOG.

If pap testing in a recipient under the age of 21 years is clinically indicated, the treating provider should clearly document indication in the medical record and provide necessary documentation to the laboratory provider upon request for billing purposes.

Please contact the appropriate managed care organization for questions concerning policies for their members. Questions regarding legacy Medicaid should be directed to Molina Provider Relations at (800) 473-2783 or (225) 924-5040.

<u>Managed Care Organization (MCO)</u>	<u>Policy for Papanicolaou Test</u>
<u>Aetna</u>	<u>1-855-242-0802</u> http://www.aetna.com/cpb/medical/data/400_499/0443.html
<u>AmeriHealth Caritas LA</u>	<u>1-888-922-0007</u>
<u>Healthy Blue</u>	<u>1-800-454-3730</u> https://www11.anthem.com/ca/medicalpolicies/guidelines/gl_pw_c185825.htm
<u>LA Healthcare Connections</u>	<u>1-866-595-8133</u> <u>LHCC is configured to deny claims for members under 21 years of age. In the rare instances where members fall under the medical necessity exception, providers need to submit a request for reconsideration with supporting documentation.</u>
<u>United Healthcare</u>	<u>1-866-675-1607</u> http://www.uhcommunityplan.com/content/dam/communityplan/healthcareprofessionals/providerinformation/LA-Provider-Information/LA-Coverage-of-Pap-Smears-for-members-under-21-years-of-age-statemandated.pdf