



Exit testing and cervical screening

What is exit testing?

Exit testing is the final Cervical Screening Test (CST) a woman is recommended to have before she can safely stop routine five-yearly screening.

This is recommended for women aged 70-74. You should receive a reminder letter about exit testing from the National Cancer Screening Register.

At any age, see your healthcare provider immediately if you experience:

- Bleeding after sex
- Bleeding between periods
- Bleeding after menopause
- Unusual vaginal discharge
- Continual pain during sex



If I am over 70 do I still need to screen?



If you are between 70 and 74 years of age you can safely stop cervical screening if no cancer-causing human papillomavirus was found in your exit test. Evidence shows there is a low risk of developing cervical cancer in the future.

If you are aged 75 years or older and have never had a Cervical Screening Test, or did not screen between the ages of 70 and 74, you may request a test with your healthcare provider.

If you have not had regular cervical screening or have had an abnormal result from a recent test, you may need to keep having tests.

Always talk to your healthcare provider for specific advice.

What are the benefits of screening in older women?

The National Cervical Screening Program now includes a screening test between 70 and 74 years of age, to better protect women as they live longer and healthier lives.

Having a Cervical Screening Test is the best way to protect yourself against developing cervical cancer. However, compared with other age groups, women aged between 70 and 74 years have the lowest rate of participation in cervical screening.

Why does the National Cervical Screening Program stop at age 74?

A large team of expert clinicians and scientists found no evidence of health benefits in continuing regular cervical screening over the age of 74.

If you are aged over 74, you can continue to screen if you choose to do so, although you will not be actively reminded by the National Cancer Screening Register.

Talk to a healthcare provider if you are over 74, have screened regularly in the past and still wish to have a Cervical Screening Test.

Can I collect my own sample?

Yes, you have the option to take a self-collected Cervical Screening Test if you are between the ages of 25 and 74, and do not have any symptoms.

You can still choose to have your healthcare provider collect your sample.

Both options are accurate, safe and effective.

**For more information call (08) 6458 1740
or email the WA Cervical Cancer Prevention Program at
cervicalscreening@health.wa.gov.au**

**To update your contact details or check when your next
Cervical Screening Test is due, you can call the
National Cancer Screening Register on 1800 627 701.**



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