

Interview Template- Women's perceptions and understanding of cervical cancer and its screening

1. What do you know about cervical cancer?
 - a. What do you think causes cervical cancer?
 - b. What do you think are the symptoms of cervical cancer?
 - c. What do you believe makes you more at risk for cervical cancer?
 - d. How do you think HPV (wart virus) is related to cervical cancer?
2. What do you know about cervical cancer screening?
3. Cervical cancer screening has changed from every 2 years to every 5 years as of December 2017. How do you feel about that?
 - a. How do you feel about starting screening at 25 years old instead of 18 years old?
 - b. Do you feel about screening every 5 years instead of 2 years?
 - c. As part of the new cervical cancer guidelines, some women will be allowed to take their own sample. How comfortable do you feel about the possibility that you can take your own sample?
 - d. How do you feel about new screening tests looking for HPV (wart virus) first rather than looking at abnormal cells?
4. I am going to provide you some information about the new cervical screening program

Cervical cancer is caused by Human papilloma virus (HPV), which high school students are now being vaccinated for. This virus also causes genital warts, anal cancer and throat cancer. HPV is contracted through sex and very common amongst those who are sexually active. Those who are infected with HPV may have some abnormal changes, but they often clear the infection themselves over a year or two. It takes about 10 years for abnormalities caused by this virus to cause cancer, this is quite rare.

Although it will feel the same for you, the way your sample is stored and tested is different. It looks for HPV virus first and only if this is present will you have your smear looked at under a microscope. It is expected that the changes to the National Cervical Screening Program will protect up to 30% more women from cervical cancer. The new Cervical Screening Test is a more accurate, effective and safe test to have every five years instead of the two yearly Pap test.

Source:

[http://www.cancerscreening.gov.au/internet/screening/publishing.nsf/Content/D0EA98D0745313FACA2581D3001A6950/\\$File/DL-Brochure-Larger-Print-version.pdf](http://www.cancerscreening.gov.au/internet/screening/publishing.nsf/Content/D0EA98D0745313FACA2581D3001A6950/$File/DL-Brochure-Larger-Print-version.pdf)

- a. Does this change your opinion about the changes to cervical screening?
 - b. Do you feel comfortable with testing for HPV first?
 - c. Do you feel it is safe to be tested every five years and to start testing later?
5. How comfortable do you feel with getting a pap smear/cervical cancer screen?
 - a. Why do you choose or choose not to participate in cervical cancer screening?
 - b. Do you have any personal factors that impact your decision?
 - c. Does the doctor performing the test impact your decision?
 6. How would you feel if your GP told you that you had 'wart virus'?
 - a. Would you prefer if your doctor called it HPV or wart virus and why?
 7. What would you like to know about cervical cancer? How would you like to find out about this?
 8. What would you like to know about cervical screening? How would you like to find out about this?
 9. How do you think participation in cervical cancer screening could be improved?
 10. Do you have any questions, concerns or a final statement?