Women with disabilities need Pap smears too!
Information pamphlets about cervical screening and the HPV (Human Papilloma Virus vaccine are available in audio, large print, Braille and in several languages.

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National Cervical Screening Program
A joint Australian, State and Territory Government initiative
What is a Pap smear?

A Pap smear is a simple test to check the health of your cervix. This is the opening to the uterus or womb and is right inside the vagina. A few cells are taken from the cervix and looked at carefully under a microscope to see if any of the cells look unhealthy.

Why have a Pap Smear?

If there are any unhealthy cells on your cervix you might need to get some more tests done. The doctor or nurse will help you. Regular Pap smears are needed by women aged 18-70 years, even if they have not had sex for many years, or have had the cervical cancer vaccine.
How is a Pap smear done?

While the woman is lying on her back or side with her legs bent, the doctor puts a special instrument called a speculum carefully into the vagina so the cervix can be seen more easily.

A few cells are taken from the cervix with a small brush or a spatula (a bit like a small ice-cream stick) and sent away to be tested.

How effective are Pap smears?

Having a Pap smear every 2 years means your cervix stays healthy. This will help prevent up to 90% of cervical cancer.
What about the results?

The results from your Pap smear will be sent to your doctor about 1-2 weeks later. Ask your doctor or nurse how you can find out about your results. Your doctor or nurse will tell you about the results, if you need any more tests, and when you should have your next Pap smear.

How much does a Pap smear cost?

When you make an appointment for a Pap smear, ask the receptionist how much your appointment will cost.

1. If your doctor “bulk bills” then they will claim the cost direct from Medicare and you will not have to pay anything

   OR

2. You will need to pay a fee but you will be able to claim most of this back by going to your local Medicare office
Choosing a clinic…

- Each clinic has facilities for women with disabilities.
- All clinics in this brochure have adjustable examination beds.
- If you prefer a female doctor, please request this when making the appointment and the staff will try their best.
- Seeing-eye dogs are permitted in the examination room.
- A sign language interpreter can be arranged.
- The insert ‘Overview of Services for Women with disabilities’ outlines the different types of Pap smear services for women with various disabilities.

Important to note:

In compliance with Occupational Health, Safety & Welfare regulations, all Clinics and Health Centres have a “no-lifting” policy. If you have limited movement it may be useful to bring a support person who can help you with transfer from your wheelchair to the examination bed for the Pap smear.
When making an appointment for a Pap smear, let the receptionist know exactly what you want, such as:

“Please arrange a sign language interpreter”

“I need an adjustable examination bed with leg rests”

“I will need to be lifted onto the bed”

“I need to bring a seeing-eye dog into the examination room”

“I need to bring a sighted guide to the appointment”

“I need a longer appointment”

“I wish to know if it is possible to do a Pap smear if I stay in my wheelchair”

“I require parking for the disabled”

“I would like to bring in a family person/carer/support person please”
At the appointment:

If you have a physical disability:

> you may need special facilities:
  - Adjustable beds
  - Wheelchair access
  - Lift or hoist

> explain to the doctor and assistants how they can help you with your equipment e.g.
  - wheelchair
  - adaptive devices
  - supportive undergarments
  - urinary equipment
  - explain how you would like to be lifted
If you are vision impaired:
> explain to the doctor and assistants how they can orientate you to the physical environment
> ask the procedure be explained as it is happening
> ask to bring your seeing-eye dog in the examination room

If you are hearing impaired:
> ask that the procedure be explained by a sign language interpreter
> ask if the head of the bed can be raised so that you can observe what is happening

If you have an intellectual disability:
> ask a family person, carer or support worker to help you.
> ask questions if you don’t understand what will happen when you have a Pap smear.

Hoists / Lifts
Hoists/lifts are available at most major hospitals. These facilities must be booked at the time of making the appointment. You might need a referral from a doctor for any Pap smear services in hospitals.
Location of Clinics

Sexual Health Information Networking and Education South Australia Inc (SHine SA) clinics
(No referrals necessary for Pap smears)

64A Woodville Road, Woodville (Woodville GP Plus Centre)
Appointments: (08) 8300 5301

43 Peachey Road, Davoren Park
Appointments: (08) 8258 7955

Gilles Plains Community Health Centre
489B North East Road, Hillcrest
Appointments: (08) 8300 5301

Lyell McEwin Health Service
The Family Clinic
Haydown Road, Elizabeth Vale
Appointments: (08) 8252 7955

Flinders Medical Centre
Women’s Health Clinic
Flinders Drive, Bedford Park
Appointments: (08) 8325 8164

Noarlunga Centre
Alexander Kelly Drive, Noarlunga
Appointments: (08) 8325 8164

Ask your doctor or practice nurse about having a Pap smear
Primary Health Care Services

Northern Women’s Community Health Centre
28 Philip Highway, Elizabeth
Tel: (08) 8252 3711

Dale Street Women’s Health Centre
47 Dale Street, Port Adelaide
Tel: (08) 8444 0700

Hospitals

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Women’s Health Centre, Maternity
Outpatients Department
28 Woodville Road, Woodville
Tel: (08) 8222 7040

Women’s and Children’s Hospital
72 King William Road, North Adelaide
Tel: (08) 8161 7592

Royal Adelaide Hospital, Women’s Health Centre
North Terrace, Adelaide
Tel: (08) 8222 5587

Flinders Medical Centre, Women’s Health Clinic
Flinders Drive, Bedford Park
Tel: (08) 8204 5197

Modbury Public Hospital, Women’s Health Clinic
Smart Road, Modbury
Tel: (08) 8161 2593

Lyell McEwin Health Service, The Family Clinic
Haydown Road, Elizabeth Vale
Tel: (08) 8282 1611
Other sources of information about Pap smears

SA Cervix Screening Program
Level 1, 162 Grenfell Street
Adelaide, SA 5000
Tel: (08) 8226 8181
Email: cervixscreening@health.sa.gov.au
Web: www.cervixscreening.sa.gov.au

For country callers
13 15 56 (for cost of local call)

Sexual Healthline
Tel: 1 300 883 793
Or TTY: (08) 8300 5300
Mon-Fri 9am-1pm
Toll free for country callers: 1 800 188 171
Email: sexualhealthhotline@health.sa.gov.au

Women’s Healthline
Women’s Health Statewide
Tel and TTY: (08) 8239 9600
Mon-Fri 1pm-4.30pm
Healthline: 1 300 882 880 (for cost of local call)
Web: www.whs.sa.gov.au

For more information

SA Health
SA Cervix Screening Program
www.cervixscreening.sa.gov.au