



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS
STRONG MEDICINE FOR AMERICA

May 11, 2015

Tamara Syrek Jensen, JD
Director, Coverage and Analysis Group
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

RE: Screening for Cervical Cancer with Human Papillomavirus Testing (CAG-00442N)

Dear Ms. Syrek Jensen,

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), which represents 120,900 family physicians and medical students across the country, I write in response to the [proposed decision memo](#) for screening for cervical cancer with human papillomavirus (HPV) testing posted by the agency on April 16, 2015.

The AAFP strongly supports this proposal and applauds CMS for the speed in issuing it. As stated in our April 24, 2014 [letter](#) and December 17, 2014 [letter](#) both on this topic, we support Medicare coverage for this important preventive service. This proposed coverage is consistent with the AAFP's recommendation for cervical cancer screening and in agreement with the United States Preventive Services Task Force's recommendation to cover cervical cancer screening with cytology (pap smear) every 3 years for women 21-65 years of age and an option for women 30-65 to spread screening out to every 5 years with a combination of cytology and HPV testing. The combination of cytology with HPV testing allows women the choice to have less frequent screening without increasing their risk of developing cervical cancer.

The proposal is consistent with the evidence and allows women and their physicians more options for cervical cancer screening.

For any questions you might have please contact Robert Bennett, Federal Regulatory Manager, at 202-232-9033 or rbennett@aafp.org.

Sincerely,

Reid B. Blackwelder, MD, FAAFP
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