



SUNFLOWER WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE
JENNIFER S. HUTCHISON, MD, F.A.C.O.G.

April 25, 2012

Dear Patient,

I personally want to take the time to share and make you aware of recent changes in the recommendations for screening for cervical cancer. These recommendations were released by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force in partnership with the American Cancer Society, the American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology, and the American Society for Clinical Pathology. These recommendations may be accessed through a link on our website, [Sunflowerwhc.com](http://www.sunflowerwhc.com), or at http://www.acog.org/About_ACOG/Announcements/New_Cervical_Cancer_Screening_Recommendations. Using this guide, you may be able to determine your need for the Pap smear test itself.

The Pap smear, which is the screen for cervical cancer, is only part of your well-woman visit. Since screening for cervical cancer may be appropriate for most women at greater than one year intervals, it is not absolutely essential that your annual exam is scheduled exactly one year from the last. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists does continue to recommend yearly well-woman visits. We are trying to accommodate yearly annuals, and have plans to improve timeliness of annual exams, however would like to reassure you that having a delay in your annual exam, even by several months, and should not adversely affect your health.

Your patience and understanding are appreciated as I share with you the new guidelines and hope to continue promoting your good health.

Sincerely,

Jennifer S. Hutchison, M.D.