



Frequently asked questions

Your health matters, and so does having the information you need.
Find answers to common questions about the BD Onclarity™ HPV Test.^{1,*}

HPV and cervical cancer

Why is HPV screening important for preventing cervical cancer?

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is responsible for over 90% of cervical cancer cases.² HPV is common, and in most cases, the body clears it on its own. However, in some cases it can lead to serious health issues, including cervical cancer. Early detection of HPV is the key to preventing cervical cancer before it develops.

Do I still need to screen for HPV if I have received the HPV vaccine?

Yes—The vaccine protects against many types of HPV, but not all of them. Still, 4 out of 5 women by age 50 will have HPV at one point in their lives.³ The vaccine and screening work best together to reduce rates of cervical cancer.⁴

What are the common symptoms of HPV?

For many people with HPV, they don't have any symptoms at all, which is why routine screening is essential. When symptoms do occur, they depend on the type of HPV. High-risk types usually don't cause symptoms, but can lead to changes in cervical cells that may progress to cancer if untreated.⁵

What do the different HPV types mean?

There are different kinds of HPV, called genotypes. Some genotypes are higher risk and can cause cervical cancer. Screening with a test that has extended genotyping can identify specific high-risk HPV, helping you and your healthcare provider better understand and manage your health.

If I have never had symptoms of HPV, do I still need to test?

Yes—in fact 60% of cervical cancers occur in people who have not been screened in the last 5 years or who have never been screened.⁶ Because HPV infections are often silent, testing is the only way to know if you have HPV.

Breaking down the details of the BD Onclarity™ HPV Test

How often do I need to screen for cervical cancer?

The American Cancer Society recommends starting cervical cancer screening at age 25.⁷ People with a cervix between the ages of 25 to 65 years old should have a primary HPV test[†] every 5 years.⁷

Do I need a prescription from my healthcare provider for the BD Onclarity™ HPV Test?

Yes—the BD Onclarity™ HPV Test is a clinical laboratory test that must be ordered by a licensed healthcare provider as part of cervical cancer screening.

What kind of healthcare provider can prescribe this test?

Any provider who performs or manages cervical cancer screening can order the test. This typically includes obstetricians/gynecologists (OB/GYNs), family medicine doctors, internal medicine physicians, nurse practitioners or physician assistants who provide women's health/cervical screening services.

Is the BD Onclarity™ HPV Test covered by insurance?

Primary HPV screening is a widely covered service, and generally the BD Onclarity™ HPV Test is covered by insurance. Please check with individual plans for specific questions about coverage.

Can I order the test for someone else?

No—the BD Onclarity™ HPV Test must be ordered by a licensed healthcare provider for a specific patient, based on screening guidelines and appropriate clinical context.

How is this different from a Pap smear or clinician-collected HPV test?

A Pap test evaluates cells from your cervix for abnormal changes. An HPV test (both self-collected^{1,*} and clinician-collected) detects the presence of HPV, which causes cells of the cervix to become abnormal and potentially cancerous. The self-collected option tests vaginal cells, while the clinician-collected option tests cervical cells.

If I collect my own sample is it as accurate as if it's done by a healthcare provider?

Samples collected by yourself are similar in accuracy to samples collected from a healthcare provider in a traditional pelvic exam.^{1,*}

What types of HPV does this test detect?

The BD Onclarity™ HPV Test delivers comprehensive[‡] results and detects 14 high-risk HPV types.¹ Specifically:

- It *individually* identifies types: HPV 16, 18, 31, 45, 51, and 52.
- It *groups* other high-risk types: 33 / 58, 35 / 39 / 68, and 56 / 59 / 66.

How do I collect my own sample?

The self-collection swab looks like a long cotton swab, and the collection process takes less than a minute to do in a private space at your healthcare provider's office or in your own home.^{1,†} You will only need to insert the thin swab 2 inches into the vagina, and rotate it to collect your sample. Once collected, the sample will be sent to the lab.

Can I use this test if I've had a hysterectomy?

Talk to your OBGYN and/or primary care physician to see if this test is right for you. Based on guidelines, screening is recommended only if your cervix was not removed during the hysterectomy procedure.⁸

What to expect with BD Onclarity™ HPV Test

What do my BD Onclarity™ HPV Test results mean?

Negative Result: NO HPV detected

- A negative result means that the test did not detect the presence of HPV. Your healthcare provider will make recommendations for your next screening.

Positive Result: YES HPV detected

- If you test positive for HPV, your risk for cervical cancer may be higher based on the type of HPV you have. The BD Onclarity™ HPV Test delivers comprehensive results,^{1,*} helping your healthcare provider recommend either additional testing or repeat HPV testing to monitor for changes.

If I receive positive HPV results, does this mean I also have cancer?

A positive test result does not mean you have cervical cancer nor does it mean you will get cancer. HPV positivity is common and in most patients, the infection will resolve on its own. There are many types of HPV. Some have a higher risk of causing cervical cancer.³ Based on your results, your healthcare provider may recommend follow-up testing to determine your risk.

Is my information kept private?

Yes—medical test results are part of your protected health information under U.S. law (HIPAA) and state regulations.

How can I talk to my partner about a positive test result?

HPV spreads through skin-to-skin contact and sexual activity, including vaginal, anal, and oral sex. Talking with your partner about HPV can also foster shared responsibility for health. Seek out trustworthy sources, like your healthcare provider, to educate yourself and your partner.

Test on your terms. Protect your future from cervical cancer.
Ask your healthcare provider about the BD Onclarity™ HPV Test.

*Self-collected vaginal specimens can be tested as an alternative specimen type when cervical sampling is either contraindicated or cervical samples otherwise cannot be obtained.

¹A primary HPV test specifically detects high-risk HPV, the virus responsible for most cervical cancers. The US FDA has approved certain tests to be primary HPV tests, as a standalone screening method.

^{*}The BD Onclarity™ HPV Assay is the only FDA-approved HPV test which provides the capability for individually genotyping six high-risk types and three genotype groups.

References:

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