



GEMS Preventative Care & Screening Benefits: Pap Smear

Dear Member

Your health matters to us. As part of GEMS' preventative care benefits, eligible female members (ages 12 to 65) have **access to routine Pap smear** screening to help detect cervical cell changes early, often before symptoms appear.

Why a Pap smear is important

- ✓ Early detection saves lives: A Pap smear can identify abnormal cervical cells before they become cancerous, enabling timely treatment.
- ✓ Prevention-focused care: When combined with HPV testing (as clinically indicated), Pap smears help prevent cervical cancer through early detection and intervention.
- ✓ Quick and simple: The test is usually completed in a few minutes at a GP, gynaecologist, or registered nurse practice.

What your benefits include

- ✓ Pap smear screening (vaginal/cervical smear and cytology preparation)
- ✓ HPV testing (as clinically indicated) using polymerase chain reaction (PCR)
- ✓ Consultation and necessary materials/consumables related to the screening

Frequency: Covered once per benefit year for female beneficiaries aged 12–65, subject to Scheme rules and clinical protocols.

Where can you go

You can visit a a General Medical Practitioner, a Specialist Family Practitioner, a Gynaecologist, or a Registered Nurse (for specific items), with pathology processed by accredited laboratories.

How to access your benefit

1. Book a screening appointment with your preferred network provider.
2. Bring your GEMS membership card and ID to your visit.
3. Ask your provider to submit the correct tariff and procedure codes to GEMS when claiming.

Your wellness, our priority

Regular screening is one of the most effective ways to protect your cervical health. If you have questions about when to test or whether HPV testing is appropriate for you, please speak to your healthcare provider.

Important: A Pap smear is payable from the preventative (risk) benefit and does not affect your day-to-day or savings benefits. Benefits are subject to Scheme rules, clinical guidelines, waiting periods (where applicable), and available benefits. The final payment depends on the submitted account, the codes billed, and your specific option's rules.

Kind regards,
Government Employees Medical Scheme (GEMS)

