

## Associates in OB- Gyn,S.C.

### Pap Smear and HPV testing

Dear Patient:

We at Associates in Ob-gyn pride ourselves on offering our patients the most advanced preventative care available. Therefore, we would like to take this opportunity to inform you about high-risk HPV testing that can be performed in addition to your pap smear today. HPV stands for human papillomavirus . Persistent infection with high-risk HPV is the primary cause of cervical cancer. The following are important facts about HPV and cervical cancer screening:

- Most women will have HPV at some point during their lives but very few will develop cervical cancer. The body's immune system can often clear the virus.
- Women under the age of 30 have a very high likelihood of clearing the virus and a very low risk of cervical cancer. Therefore, HPV testing is not done with the Pap smear in women under the age of 30.
- The Pap smear looks for abnormal cells on the cervix that have changed due to persistent high-risk HPV infection. The HPV test looks for an HPV infection.
- The combination of thin prep Pap smear and high-risk HPV testing has nearly 100% accuracy. A pap smear alone has roughly 70% accuracy.
- If you choose not to have the HPV test today and your pap smear shows abnormal cells, an HPV test is often done automatically by the lab to assist in diagnosis.
- A positive HPV result is not a reliable indicator of you or your partner's sexual behavior. HPV can lie dormant in cervical cells for many years before becoming an active infection.

Some insurance companies will cover the high-risk HPV test when used with a Pap smear to test for cervical cancer screening of women aged 30 or over. However, your individual insurance may or may not cover the test. If the test is not paid for by your insurance company, you will receive a bill. The approximate cost for an HPV test is \$130.00.

\_\_\_\_\_ **YES**, I would like to have the HPV test along with my Pap smear. I agree to pay for the HPV test should my insurance not cover the cost.

\_\_\_\_\_ **NO**, I would not like to have the HPV test along with my Pap smear.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature