

Frequently Asked Question

Question: The cervical cancer screening performance measure does not reflect the every aspect standard of care outlined in the [HHS Adult Adolescent OI Prevention and Treatment Guidelines](#). Why is this?

Answer: In the case of the cervical cancer screening standard of care outlined in the HHS Adult and Adolescent OI Prevention and Treatment Guidelines, healthcare providers are expected to provide female patients a Pap test within one year of onset of sexual activity, but no later than 21 years old. The performance measure only includes female patients who are at least 21 years old and does not account for younger female patients who are sexually active. The decision not to include female patients younger than 21 years old who are sexually active in the performance measure was based on the lack of uniform structured data capture for sexual activity in all electronic health records. Regardless of this performance measure, healthcare providers should provide Pap test, as appropriate, to female patients younger than 21 years old who are sexually active. A performance measure provides an indication of an organization's performance in relation to a specific standard of care. Standards of care are guidelines that outline the expectations of care around a specific issue or topic and are created by a group of subject matter or clinical experts. Local HIV healthcare providers whose patient population consists of a significant portion of female patients younger than 21 years old who are sexually active may choose to modify this measure to reflect their patient population and organization's needs.