

One in 35 women in South African will develop cervical cancer.

Who should be more careful?

Women who:

- ✓ Smoke
- ✓ Have been taking birth control pills for a long time.
- ✓ Have not gone for pap smears.
- ✓ Have many different sexual partners, which increase the risk of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) infection.



What are the signs?

- ✓ Pain during sexual intercourse.
- ✓ Vaginal bleeding after sexual intercourse.
- ✓ Pain in the lower part of the stomach (pelvis).
- ✓ Unusual vaginal discharge.
- ✓ Abnormal bleeding between your menstrual periods.
- ✓ Urinating more than usual.

What to do – HAVE A PAP SMEAR

A pap smear can be done by your general practitioner at your nearest Platinum Health medical facility.

- ✓ It is a quick, simple and painless test during which the GP collects cells from your cervix.
- ✓ If you are between 18 and 70 years of age and have had sexual intercourse you should have a pap smear yearly.
- ✓ 90% of cervical cancers can be prevented if you go for a pap smear regularly.

Cervical cancer is the 2nd most common cancer world-wide; but it is curable if diagnosed early.