

Staying Healthy: Recommendations for WOMEN

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) aims to help you stay healthy. The table below lists the **preventive health services** (screening tests, medications, health counseling, and vaccines) that VHA recommends. Screening tests are used to look for health conditions before there are symptoms. These recommendations apply only to adult women of **average risk**. You are a woman of average risk if you have **no personal or family history or symptoms** of the conditions listed below. If you are having symptoms of a condition, please talk with your provider.

Which preventive health services are recommended for average risk women in my age group?

Green: Recommended

Yellow: Recommended for some women – talk with your provider

Red: Not recommended (NR)

SCREENING TESTS

HEALTH CONDITION	18–29 years	30–39 years	40–49 years	50–59 years	60–69 years	70–79 years	80 years and older
Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA)	Not recommended (age 18–64)					Talk with your provider (age 65–75)	Not recommended (age 76 and older)
Breast Cancer	Not recommended (age 18–39)	Recommended annually (45–54) Recommend biennial (55 and older or have opportunity to continue annually) Have opportunity to begin annual screening (40–44)				Recommended for some women – talk with your provider (age 75 +)	
Cervical Cancer	Every 3 years (age 21–29)	Recommended. Every 3 or 5 years, depending on tests chosen (age 30–65)			Not recommended (age 66 and older)		
Colon Cancer	Not recommended (age 18–49)			Recommended. Frequency varies by test chosen (age 50–75)		Talk with your provider (age 76–85)	NR (age 86 and older)
Depression	Recommended every year						
Hepatitis B Infection	Recommended for some women – talk with your provider (age 18 and older)						
Hepatitis C Infection	Recommended for some women – talk with your provider (age 18 and older)						
High Blood Pressure	Recommended every 2 years (age 18 and older)						
High Cholesterol	Talk with your provider (age 20 and older)						
HIV Infection	Recommended once (age 18 and older)						
Osteoporosis	Recommended for some women – talk with your provider (age 18–64)				Recommended once (age 65 and older)		
Overweight & Obesity	Recommended every year (age 18 and older)						
Sexually Transmitted Infections	Recommended. Test for gonorrhea and chlamydia every year (age 18–24). Talk with your provider about syphilis testing.	Talk with your provider about testing for gonorrhea, chlamydia, and syphilis (age 25 and older)					

MEDICATIONS

HEALTH CONDITION	18–29 years	30–39 years	40–49 years	50–59 years	60–69 years	70–79 years	80 years and older
Folic Acid for Pregnancy Planning	Recommended. Daily folic acid supplement for any woman who may become pregnant				Not recommended after child-bearing age		
Aspirin to Prevent Stroke	Not recommended (age 18–54)				Talk with your provider (age 55–79)		NR (age 80 and older)

HEALTH COUNSELING

HEALTH CONDITION	18–29 years	30–39 years	40–49 years	50–59 years	60–69 years	70–79 years	80 years and older
Tobacco Use	Recommended every visit (if using tobacco) (age 18 and older)						
Alcohol Use	Talk with your provider about healthy alcohol use (age 18 and older)						
Healthy Diet and Physical Activity	Talk with your provider about a healthy diet and physical activity (age 18 and older)						

VACCINES

HEALTH CONDITION	18–29 years	30–39 years	40–49 years	50–59 years	60–69 years	70–79 years	80 years and older
Hepatitis A	Recommended for some women – talk with your provider (age 18 and older)						
Hepatitis B	Recommended for some women – talk with your provider (age 18 and older)						
Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) HPV2, HPV4, HPV9 vaccines	3 doses (age 18–26)	Not recommended (age 27 and older)					
Influenza (Flu) Injectable, Inhaled	Recommended every year (age 18 and older)						
Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)	Recommended for some women – talk with your provider (age 18 and older)						
Meningococcal Disease	Recommended for some women – talk with your provider (age 18 and older)						
Pneumococcal Disease PPSV23 vaccine, PCV13 vaccine	Recommended for some women – talk with your provider (age 18–64)				Recommended. 1 dose each of 2 vaccines (age 65 and older)		
Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria & Pertussis)	Recommended. 1 dose. Get additional dose with every pregnancy (age 18 and older)						
Td (Tetanus and diphtheria)	Recommended. Booster every 10 years (10 years after last Tdap or Td) (age 18 and older)						
Varicella Zoster RZV (Shingles)	Not recommended (age 18–49)				Recommended 2 doses (age 50 and older), with second dose 2-6 months after first dose		