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Cervical Cancer Screening Technologies

Adjudication Guideline

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Abstract

For Members

When cancer starts in the cervix, it is called cervical cancer. The cervix is the lower, narrow end of the uterus. Also known as the womb, the uterus is where a baby grows when a woman is pregnant. The cervix connects the upper part of the uterus to the vagina (the birth canal). All women are at risk for cervical cancer. It occurs most often in women over age 30.

Cervical cancer is the easiest female cancer to prevent, with regular screening tests and follow-up. Two screening tests can help prevent cervical cancer or find it early:

1. The Pap test (or Pap smear) looks for pre-cancers, cell changes on the cervix that might become cervical cancer if they are not treated appropriately.
2. The HPV test looks for the virus (human papilloma virus human papillomavirus) that can cause these cell changes.

The Pap test can be done in a doctor's office or in a clinic. During this test, the vagina and the cervix are examined; and then the doctor will collect few cells and mucus from the cervix and from the area around it. Then, these cells are sent to a laboratory to check if they are normal.

Daman covers the cervical Cancer screening only for Thiqa plans based on the HAAD Standards for the Cervical Cancer Screening.

For Medical Professionals

The aim of this adjudication Rule is to highlight the coverage and the medical necessity of the Cervical Cancer Screening, for all the health insurance plans administered by Daman.

Cervical cancer is preventable and curable, if detected early. Important strategies to reduce the risk of cervical cancer include screening with the Papanicolaou (Pap) and, for some women, human papillomavirus (HPV) tests, as well as prevention of HPV infection with the HPV vaccine.

Daman covers the cervical Cancer screening only for Thiqa plans based on the HAAD Standards for the Cervical Cancer Screening.

Approved by:
Daman

Responsible:
Medical Standards & Research

Related Adjudication Guidelines:
None

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Scope

The aim of this adjudication Rule is to highlight the coverage and the medical necessity of the Cervical Cancer Screening, for all the health insurance plans administered by Daman.

The content of this adjudication rule will enclose the below:

- When should women start and stop the Cervical Cancer Screening?
- What are the Cervical Cancer Screening methods and intervals?
- How is the Cervical Cancer Screening performed after a total hysterectomy?
- Recommendations of the Cervical Cancer Screening among women who have been vaccinated against Human papillomavirus (HPV), and,
- The coverage criteria.

Adjudication Policy

Eligibility / Coverage Criteria

Daman covers the cervical Cancer screening only for Thiqa plans based on the HAAD Standards for the Cervical Cancer Screening.

Conditions	Recommendations
When to start the cervical cancer screening	All sexually active women, symptom free, aged between 25-65 years (married, divorced, widowed) residing in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.
	Women aged <25 years should not be screened regardless of age at sexual initiation and other behaviour-related risk factors.
When to stop the cervical cancer screening	Women aged >65 with evidence of adequate negative prior screening** and no history of CIN2+ within the last 20 years should not be screened. Screening should not be resumed for any reason, even if a woman reports having a new sexual partner.
	Women aged >65 with evidence of inadequate screening history, then they should follow the HAAD clinical care pathway for cervical cancer follow and check-ups
Cervical Cancer Screening in post-hysterectomy	In a total hysterectomy for benign indications, women should stop screening and not restart for any reason. Note: if women had any kind of hysterectomy for a malignancy reason, then they should follow the clinical care pathway related to cervical cancer.
	In a supra-cervical hysterectomy (cervix intact), women should continue screening as per the guidelines.
Cervical Cancer Screening among women who have been vaccinated against Human papillomavirus (HPV)	Women, who have been immunized against the HPV 16/18, should be screened according to the age, the same as women who have not been vaccinated.
Annual Screening	Annual screening by any screening method is not recommended for women of any age group.
	Women who are immune-compromised due to diseases (including HIV) or medication must have annual screening.

** Adequate negative prior screening is three consecutive negative cytology results or two consecutive negative co-tests within the 10 years before cessation of screening, with the most recent test occurring within the past 5 years.

Frequency of the Cervical Cancer Screening		
Test	Age	Recommendations
Papanicolaou test (Pap test) [with liquid based cytology]	25-49 years of age (married, divorced, widowed)	Every 3 years
	50-65 years of age (married, divorced, widowed)	Every 5 years
Papanicolaou test (Pap test) [with liquid based cytology]	Any age between 25 – 65 (married, divorced, widowed) for immune-compromised women	Annually

Coverage criteria of the Cervical Cancer Screening for Thiqa	
Provider sector	Pre-authorization needed
Private/Non-SEHA	Yes
SEHA	NO

Requirements for Coverage

ICD and CPT codes must be coded to the highest level of specificity.

Non-Coverage

Daman does not cover the cervical cancer screening for any of its administered health insurance plans, except Thiqa plans.

The cervical cancer screening is covered for Thiqa plans based on the HAAD Standards for the Cervical Cancer Screening.

For Thiqa plans, Daman does not cover the cervical cancer screening if:

- The patient has received a total hysterectomy for benign indications, as it is not medically indicated;
- The patient is over 65 years of age with an adequate screening history: the last three previous smears were found negative;
- The patient is < 25 years of age, regardless if she is sexually active or not.
- The Cervical cancer Screening is not covered for unmarried women.

Payment and Coding Rules

Please apply HAAD payment rules and regulations and relevant coding manuals for ICD, CPT, etc.

Denial codes

Code description
Activity/diagnosis is inconsistent with the patient's age/gender
Service is not clinically indicated based on good clinical practice
Service/supply may be appropriate, but too frequent
Service(s) is (are) not covered
Prior approval is required and was not obtained

Appendices

A. References

- Cancer Control Section, Public Health and Policy. (2012). HAAD Standards for the Cervical Cancer Screening. Available: http://www.haad.ae/HAAD/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=M_AHzOF-aRw%3d&tabid=819. Last accessed 19th Aug 2013.

B. Revision History

Date	Change(s)
1-11-2013	V1.0
01-05-2014	V1.1: Disclaimer updated as per system requirements
01-06-2017	V2.0: Coverage criteria updated

C. Disclaimer

Kindly refer to the list of facilities providing HPV vaccine as part of the cancer screening program implemented by HAAD in the link below:

<https://www.haad.ae/simplycheck/tabid/128/Default.aspx>