

# Skeehchooash

*Pequot for Grasses, Herbs, Medicines*

PEQUOT PHARMACEUTICAL NETWORK • PHARMACY NEWSLETTER

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## Cervical Health Awareness

More than 14,000 women in the United States are diagnosed with invasive cervical cancer each year, but the disease is preventable with vaccination and appropriate screening.

### Cause

- Long-lasting infection with certain types of human papillomavirus (HPV) is the main cause of cervical cancer.
- HPV is a common virus that is passed from one person to another during sex. At least half of sexually active people will have HPV at some point in their lives, but few women will get cervical cancer.

### Prevention

- HPV vaccines
  - Recommended for preteens aged 11 to 12 years, but can be given starting at age 9.
  - Recommended for everyone through age 26 years, if they are not vaccinated already.
  - Not recommended for everyone older than age 26 years up to 45 years old until after speaking with their doctor about their risk for new HPV infections and the possible benefits of vaccination
- Screening Tests
  - The Pap test (or Pap smear) looks for precancers, cell changes on the cervix that might become cervical cancer if they are not treated appropriately.
  - The HPV test looks for the virus (human papillomavirus) that can cause these cell changes.



Source: [https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/cervical/basic\\_info/prevention.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/cervical/basic_info/prevention.htm)



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