

## LEADERSHIP TOOL FOR A LEARNING ORGANIZATION

# Cervical Cancer Screening

### Why is cervical cancer screening important?

- The American Cancer Society estimates 13,800 new cervical cancer diagnoses and 4,290 cervical cancer deaths in 2020.<sup>1</sup>
- Two of the most prevalent types of medical malpractice claims in obstetrics and gynecology are failure to diagnose and delay in diagnosis of cervical cancer, both of which can lead to litigation, resulting in costly settlements and jury verdicts.<sup>2</sup>
- Because the five-year relative survival rate for cervical cancer classified as localized is 92%, compared with 17% for cancers detected at the distant stage, many experts view increasing access to cervical cancer screening as the most important factor in reducing the rate of cervical cancer in the United States.<sup>3</sup>

### Did you ask?

- Are staff aware of and adhering to current guidelines for cervical cancer screening?
- Do our laboratory policies include protocols to ensure compliance with federal regulations and to promote full, clear, accurate, and thorough documentation of patient histories and test results?
- What are we doing at our facility to ensure prompt follow-up with patients concerning cervical cancer screening test results, and are patients being reminded to schedule annual wellness appointments?
- What are we doing to increase our facility's cervical cancer screening rates, to promote patient education, and to increase awareness of the importance of regular screening, especially for at-risk populations?

### Need More Information?

As a member of ECRI's risk management and patient safety program, you and your staff can access guidance outlining strategies for conducting cervical cancer screening:

- [Cervical Cancer Screening](#)
- [The Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments](#)
- [Test Tracking and Follow Up](#)

ECRI can help you with all of your patient safety, quality, and risk management projects. Email us at [HealthSystemRM@ecri.org](mailto:HealthSystemRM@ecri.org).

1 American Cancer Society. Key statistics for cervical cancer. 2020 Jul 30 [accessed 2020 Nov 20]. Available: <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/cervical-cancer/about/key-statistics.html>

2 The Doctors Company. Obstetrics and gynecology. A clinical guide to improving patient safety and managing risk. 2017. Available: [https://www.thedoctors.com/siteassets/pdfs/risk-management/pdf-articles/10703\\_composite\\_single-page\\_fr.pdf](https://www.thedoctors.com/siteassets/pdfs/risk-management/pdf-articles/10703_composite_single-page_fr.pdf)

3 American Cancer Society. Survival rates for cervical cancer. 2020 Jan 3 [accessed 2020 Nov 18]. Available: <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/cervical-cancer/detection-diagnosis-staging/survival.html>