

# Women: screening tests to stay healthy at any age

Screening (Test)	Who needs it?	How often should I get it?
Breast cancer (mammogram)	<p>You may need a mammogram if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• you're 40 or older</li> <li>• you're younger than 40 and cancer runs in your family</li> </ul>	Every 1 to 2 years
BRCA 1 and 2 Genes (test to tell you if you have a high risk of some cancers)	Your doctor may suggest that you get the BRCA gene test if you have a family history of certain cancers, like breast cancer or ovarian cancer. Ask your doctor if a BRCA gene test is right for you.	One time
Blood pressure	All women need routine blood pressure screening.	At routine check-ups
Cholesterol	<p>You may need a cholesterol screening if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• you are 45 or older</li> <li>• you smoke</li> <li>• you are overweight</li> <li>• you have diabetes (high blood sugar) or high blood pressure</li> <li>• you have heart disease</li> <li>• someone in your family had a heart attack at a young age</li> </ul>	Once a year
Colon Cancer	<p>You may need a colonoscopy (colon cancer screening) if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• you're 45 or older</li> <li>• you have a family history of colon cancer</li> </ul> <p>If you are between 76 and 85, ask your doctor if you need a colon cancer screening.</p>	Ask your Doctor
Depression	<p>You may need depression screening if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• you feel down or sad</li> <li>• you feel hopeless</li> <li>• you don't like doing things you used to enjoy</li> </ul>	At routine check-ups

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Diabetes (high blood sugar)	<p>You may need a diabetes screening if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• you have high blood pressure</li> <li>• you have high cholesterol</li> <li>• you are overweight</li> <li>• you have a family history of diabetes or a history of gestational diabetes</li> </ul> <p>Additional risk factors include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• you have given birth to a baby weighing over 9 pounds</li> <li>• you are age 45 or older</li> <li>• you are African American, Hispanic or Latino, American Indian, or Alaska Native. Some Pacific Islander and Asian American people also have a higher risk.</li> </ul>	At least every 3 years
Hepatitis C	<p>You may need a hepatitis C screening if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• you were born between 1945 and 1965</li> <li>• you are 18 years or older</li> <li>• you ever used needles to do drugs or have snorted drugs</li> <li>• you got a blood transfusion (you were given someone else's blood in the hospital) before 1992</li> <li>• you are pregnant</li> </ul>	<p>One time</p> <p>If you use needles to shoot drugs, talk to your doctor about how often to get screened.</p>
HIV	You may need an HIV test no matter what age you are. Talk to your doctor about getting an HIV test	At routine check-ups
Lung Cancer	You may need a lung cancer screening if you are older than 55 and smoke, or you used to smoke.	Ask your doctor
Obesity (very overweight)	All women need routine obesity screenings.	At routine check-ups
Osteoporosis (when your bones get weak)	<p>You may need an osteoporosis screening if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• you are 65 or older.</li> <li>• you are younger than 65 and at high risk for bone breaks.</li> </ul> <p>Talk to your doctor about your risk for bone breaks</p>	Ask your Doctor
Pap smear (test for cervical cancer)	You may need a pap smear if you are 21-65 years old. If you are over 65 or have had a hysterectomy (your uterus taken out), talk with your doctor to see if you still need to get a pap smear.	Most women need a pap smear every 3 to 5 years until age 65. Some women need pap smears more or less often. Talk to your doctor about how often you need a pap smear.
STIs (infections you can get from sex)	You may need STI testing if you have sex.	At routine check-ups

# Women: medicines to stay healthy at any age

Some medicines may keep you from getting health problems.

Talk to your doctor about what medicines you should take.

Medicine	Who needs it?	How often should I get it?
Aspirin	If you are 55 or older, you may need to take aspirin. Talk to your doctor.	Aspirin may help prevent strokes and improve cardiovascular health.
Folic acid	If you are at an age where you can get pregnant and want to have kids one day, you should take folic acid.	Taking folic acid before and while you're pregnant can prevent your baby from having birth defects (serious health problems).
Vitamin D	Ask your doctor about taking Vitamin D if you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• are 65 or older</li><li>• fall often or have a hard time moving</li><li>• are a non-Hispanic Black American</li></ul>	Vitamin D can help lower your chance of falling and breaking bones.
Vaccines (shots)	<p>For all women:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Get a flu shot every year</li><li>• Get a tetanus shot. Talk to your doctor about when to get a tetanus shot.</li></ul> <p>If you are between the ages of 11 and 26:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Get the HPV vaccine</li></ul> <p>If you are over 60:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Get a shingles shot</li></ul> <p>If you are over 65:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Get a pneumonia shot. Some women may need a pneumonia shot at a younger age. Talk to your doctor.</li></ul> <p>Talk to your CHN doctor about which vaccines you may need.</p>	Vaccines can help prevent serious illnesses.

