

Section 13: Women's Preventive Services

Summary of Recommendations

Prevención Clínica. Guía para médicos - Washington, D.C.; PAHO, 1998. 334 p. - Scientific Publication N° 568

Breast Cancer Screening

1. *Clinical examination and mammograms for women between the ages of 50 and 69. There is solid evidence in support of the need for annual systematic screening of women between the ages of 50 and 69, using both clinical examination and mammography.
Type of recommendation: (A)*
2. *Clinical examination and mammograms for women between the ages of 40 and 49. There is contradictory evidence as to the benefits of clinical examination and mammograms, but reasonable evidence for excluding asymptomatic women between the ages of 40 and 49 from periodic health examination (PHE).
Type of recommendation: (D)*

Cervical Cancer Screening

1. *Cervico cytology. Reduces the risk of cervical carcinoma in sexually active women. There is sufficient evidence to include cervical cancer screening within the PHE for sexually active women.
Type of recommendation: (B).*
2. *Annual screening is recommended for all women upon becoming sexually active or after turning age 18; after two normal tests screening should be performed every three years through age 69. Women with greater risk factors—i.e. those who begin sexual activity before age 18, have multiple sexual partners, smoke, or belong to disadvantaged socioeconomic groups—should be screened more often.*

Proposed Basic Indicators

Nº	Indicator	Numerator/denominator X 100
1.	Percentage of women between the ages of 50 and 69 who have had a mammogram during the past year	Total number of women between the ages of 50 and 69 who have had a mammogram during the past year
		Total number of women between the ages of 50 and 69
2.	Percentage of women between the ages of 50 and 69 who have had a health professional perform a clinical breast exam during the past year	Total number of women between the ages of 50 and 69 who have had a health professional perform a clinical breast exam during the past year
		Total number of women between the ages of 50 and 69
3.	Percentage of women between the ages of 30 and 69 who have had a Pap test or other test during the last three years	Number of women between the ages of 35 and 69 who have had a Pap test during the last three years
		Total number of women between the ages of 35 and 69

