

# COLPOSCOPY INFORMATION AND CONSENT

WV Breast & Cervical Cancer Screening Program  
Department of Health and Human Resources  
Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health

Your appointment today is for a colposcopy. This is an examination of your cervix, vagina and/or vulva with a special instrument. You are probably having this examination because your Pap test was abnormal. The Pap test shows that normal cells may be changing into abnormal cells (condyloma and/or dysplasia). Over a long period of time, these abnormal cells could develop into cancer in some women. You are having the colposcopy to determine if and what changes are present.

A colposcopy is a short procedure done in the provider's office. You will be lying on an examination table as you do for a routine pelvic exam, with your feet in stirrups. The doctor will place a speculum (like the instrument used for a Pap test) in your vagina. The colposcope is like a pair of binoculars, it magnifies the area under a strong light. It helps the doctor locate unusual looking tissue that cannot be seen with the naked eye. A weak vinegar solution is used to clean the tissue for a better view.

The doctor may take small samples (biopsies) of any unusual looking tissue. You may have some discomfort from the biopsy, but it is usually mild, and lasts only a few minutes. The tissue samples go to the Pathology Department for careful evaluation under a microscope to determine if any abnormal cells are present.

You will probably have mild vaginal bleeding for a few days. In some cases your blood flow may be heavier than a menstrual period. If you are bleeding more than your usual period, you must contact your colposcopy provider.

For at least three (3) days after a biopsy, you should not have intercourse, douche, or use tampons. The area is still healing during that time. You may do other normal activities.

In most cases, colposcopy and biopsies will show that you do not need any other treatment. However, if dysplasia or a pre-cancerous condition is found, treatment will be needed. Common treatments for these conditions include:

- Cryotherapy (freezing the abnormal tissue)
- Laser Therapy (burning the abnormal tissue area)
- Loop Electrosurgical Excision Procedure-Leep (removal of the abnormal tissue)
- Cone Biopsy (removal of a larger area of abnormal tissue)

In rare cases where cancer is found, other treatments, like hysterectomy (removal of the uterus) and/or radiation therapy, are recommended.

***If treatment is required, you may qualify for payment of services through the Breast and Cervical Cancer Diagnostic and Treatment Fund. Ask your provider for further information.***

I hereby give permission for this colposcopy and biopsies if needed:

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signature Date