Pap Smear - Patient Advisory and Consent

Please read and initial each point. If you have any questions concerning this information, please discuss with Dr. Nelson.

What is a Pap Smear?
- The Pap smear is a cancer screening test that has reduced the death rate from cancer of the cervix by 70% in the last 50 years. Cells are collected from your cervix (a part of the uterus, or womb) and smeared on a glass slide. A trained technician examines these cells through a microscope looking for cancer cells, or cells that could become cancerous.

Are All Abnormal Cells Found?
- No. The Pap smear test is 75-85% accurate, but it is not perfect. Sometimes abnormal cells that may be present on your cervix are not collected or are not transferred to the glass slide. Sometimes abnormal cells are present on the glass slide but are missed or not recognized in the laboratory. For these reasons, you should receive a Pap smear test every year until you have several normal results in a row. After that, you may be eligible for less frequent screenings.

What Causes the Laboratory Error?
- The technician examining the slide must look at more than 100,000 cells. Often, only a few of these are abnormal. Examining a Pap smear can be likened to standing on a balcony overlooking a courtyard with 1,000 Dalmatians and trying to spot the one with off-color markings in a period of five minutes. Even under the best circumstances, at least 5 out of 100 abnormal Pap smears may be read as normal. Occasionally, cells that are actually normal are misidentified as abnormal.

What Should I Do?
- Have a Pap smear test as directed. If your doctor recommends one more often, follow your doctor's advice. Report to your doctor any abnormal signs - such as excess discharge, bleeding that is heavier than usual for your menstrual period, or bleeding that occurred after sex. A normal Pap smear test does not mean that you can ignore these symptoms. DO not smoke. The chemicals in tobacco make it more likely you will have disease on your cervix.

Patient Consent
- I certify that I have read all of the above, and that any questions were discussed with my physician and answered to my satisfaction. All the paragraphs were checked or initialed by me prior to my signature.

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Physician Certification
- I certify that I have discussed concerns and have answered all her questions regarding Pap smears. I believe that she fully understands what I have explained and answered.

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<th>Gina S. Nelson, M.D.</th>
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