Making the Change to Primary Screening for HPV

The University of Louisville Physicians-Family and Geriatric Medicine (UofL), Louisville, Ky, had contracted with one of the largest providers of diagnostic testing services in the United States in the past. They were forced to find a different lab when they decided to implement primary HPV screening alone for women 21 years of age and older. Their goal was to change the standard of care for women's health cervical cancer screening, which was previously done through a combination of a Pap and a co-test. The University of Louisville Physicians-Family and Geriatric Medicine (UofL), Louisville, Ky, had contracted with one of the largest providers of diagnostic testing services in the United States in the past. They were forced to find a different lab when they decided to implement primary HPV screening alone for women 21 years of age and older. Their goal was to change the standard of care for women's health cervical cancer screening, which was previously done through a combination of a Pap and a co-test. The University of Louisville Physicians-Family and Geriatric Medicine (UofL), Louisville, Ky, had contracted with one of the largest providers of diagnostic testing services in the United States in the past. They were forced to find a different lab when they decided to implement primary HPV screening alone for women 21 years of age and older. Their goal was to change the standard of care for women's health cervical cancer screening, which was previously done through a combination of a Pap and a co-test.

THE PAP smear test identifies precancerous lesions in the cervix caused by a progression of preinvasive precursor lesions, cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN), through cervical cancer. The Pap test is not diagnostic for cervical cancer but rather serves as a screening tool to identify women who require further evaluation. The Pap test is a crucial component of cervical cancer screening, and its accuracy and sensitivity have been well-established. However, the Pap test has limitations, including a false-negative rate of up to 10% and a false-positive rate of up to 15%.

Primary HPV screening involves the use of an HPV test to screen for high-risk HPV subtypes, which are associated with cervical cancer. HPV testing is a more sensitive and specific method for cervical cancer screening compared to the Pap test. HPV testing can detect HPV infection early, allowing for the identification of women who are at high risk for cervical cancer.

THE FACTS
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COST: $7,500

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Even with ever-increasing knowledge and tools for improved disease diagnosis and treatments, there are still too many diseases where these are not effective. In order to gain better insights into the biological, environmental, and behavioral influences on these diseases, President Obama announced the Precision Medicine Initiative® (PMI) in January 2015.

Precision medicine is an emerging approach for disease treatment and prevention that takes into account individual variability in genes, environment, and lifestyle. The approach is patient-centric, where biological data for a single individual can help doctors tailor unique and specific treatments to that person. The PMI will support research from human biology, behavior, genetics, environment, data science, and other fields with the goal of developing more effective ways to prolong health and treat disease.