

HPV Screening & Risk Assessment Questions for Office Intake Form

HPV Vaccination

1. Have you ever received the HPV vaccine? (YES) (NO)
2. If yes, have you completed the HPV vaccination series (two doses between ages 9–14 OR three doses between ages 15–26) ? (YES) (NO)

HPV Screening

1. Have you ever undergone screening for HPV-related diseases (e.g., anal Pap test, cervical Pap smear test, HPV DNA testing)? (YES) (NO)
2. If yes, when was your most recent screening? _____
3. Have you ever been advised to have more frequent screenings due to HPV or related abnormalities?

HPV History

1. Have you ever been diagnosed with any HPV-related conditions (e.g., genital warts, anal dysplasia, cervical dysplasia, or anal cancer)? (YES) (NO)
2. If yes, please specify the condition and approximate date of diagnosis: _____
3. Are you currently experiencing any symptoms such as anal pain, bleeding, or unusual discharge? (YES) (NO)

1. Clarifying HPV Symptoms and Raising Clinical Suspicion

Key Message: Most high-risk HPV infections cause no symptoms, but the outcomes can be serious if left unchecked.

Talking Points:

- “HPV itself often has no signs or symptoms, especially the high-risk types that can lead to cancer.”
- “That’s why we pay close attention to persistent symptoms that could indicate early changes, even if they seem minor.”
- “Not everything that bleeds is a hemorrhoid. Persistent bleeding, pain, or itching in the anal or rectal area requires a closer look.”
- “By doing this work early, we often catch problems before they become something more serious.”

Common Warning Signs to Watch For:

- Rectal or anal bleeding (especially if persistent or unexplained)
- Anal pain, itching, or pressure
- Lumps or growths near the anus
- Changes in bowel habits

2. Addressing Patient Hesitancy Around Digital Anorectal Examination (DARE)

Key Message: We understand this can feel uncomfortable, but it's a quick, routine part of care, and a effective tool in protecting your long-term health."

Talking Points:

- "It's completely normal to feel a bit uneasy about a rectal exam, and I'm here to make this as comfortable as possible for you."
- "The exam only takes a minute or two, but it gives us vital information that could detect problems early, when they're most treatable."
- "I'll walk you through everything as we go. If at any point you feel uncomfortable, we can pause."

Tips for Providers:

- Normalize the procedure as standard, routine, and brief
- Provide context: "This is part of cancer prevention, not because we expect something is wrong."
- Offer privacy, reassurance, and simple language

3. Explaining HPV Status and Anal Cancer Risk

Key Message: HPV is common, but for some people, it can increase the risk of cancer. That's why we screen and stay proactive.

Talking Points:

- "Most people will have HPV at some point in their lives, it's very common and usually goes away on its own."
- "However, certain high-risk types of HPV can cause changes in cells that may lead to cancer over time if not monitored."
- "If you've tested positive for high-risk HPV, it doesn't mean you have cancer. It just means we'll keep a closer eye on things to protect your health."
- "Anal cancer is rare, but it's becoming more common. That's why we want to be thorough and catch any changes early."

Risk Factors Worth Highlighting:

- History of receptive anal sex
- HIV or immunosuppression
- Smoking
- History of genital warts or HPV-related dysplasia/cancers
- Previous abnormal cervical or anal screening