



A Patient's Guide to PELVIC EXAM

Your body, your choice

based on your
views, needs,
interests or rights

without
coercion, threats, or
violence

with the support
person/people you
want



WHAT

an exam to assess the health of the female reproductive system: may include external examination of the genitalia and internal examination of the vagina



WHEN

- Routinely for cervical cancer screening (Pap smear) starting at age 21 every 1-3 years
- As needed for IUD placement, STI testing or when abnormal pelvic symptoms are present



EXPECTATIONS

- Patient will be asked to undress from the waist down and be given a gown or drape to cover with
- A healthcare professional will perform the exam by visualizing and palpating (feeling) with gloved hands the internal and external genital area
- A speculum may be used to during the internal exam

