

FDA OKs First At-Home Self-Collection Kit for Cervical Cancer Screening

Teal Wand's at-home cervical cancer screening test offers women comfort and control.

May 14, 2025 By Laura Schmidt

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first at-home kit for self-collecting samples for [cervical cancer screening](#) for people ages 25 to 65 at average risk, according [to Teal Health](#), the women's health company that developed the test, the Teal Wand.

Cervical cancer develops when cells grow out of control in the uterine cervix. Almost all cases are caused by [human papillomavirus](#) (HPV). In the United States, cervical cancer is relatively uncommon thanks not only to an effective [HPV vaccine](#) but also to [routine screening](#) with HPV tests and [Pap smears](#), which can detect abnormal precancerous cells and allow for early treatment and increased likelihood of long-term survival.



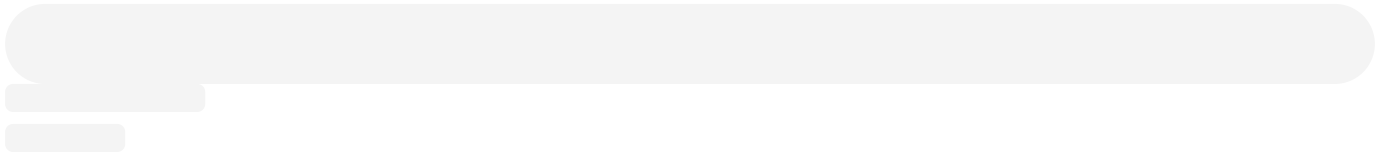
[View this post on Instagram](#)

A post shared by Teal Health (@teal.health)

The Teal Wand features a wand with a soft spongelike tip for collecting cells. Because it does not use a speculum—the metal tool traditionally used by clinicians to scrape cells from the cervix during a Pap smear—it does not test for abnormal precancerous cells but rather for cancer-causing HPV types.

Once patients are done with collection at home, they ship their sample to a certified lab for testing. If the sample is positive, patients must follow up with a colposcopy to confirm the presence of abnormal tissue.

The approval of the Teal Wand signals a new era in health care centering women’s comfort, control and personal preferences. Additionally, the at-home kit is a great option for people who may have [limited access](#) to [preventive](#) cancer care.



[View this post on Instagram](#)

A post shared by Teal Health (@teal.health)

[FDA approval](#) is supported by the SELF-CERV study, which included more than 600 participants who self-collected a sample using the device.

Nearly every woman in the study (98%) successfully collected a valid sample, and most (93%) said the device was easy to use. What's more, about 94% said they would prefer self-collection at home if they knew the sample would yield test results as accurate as if it had been collected at a doctor's office.



[View this post on Instagram](#)

A post shared by Teal Health (@teal.health)

"As a principal investigator in the SELF-CERV trial, I saw firsthand how receptive and excited women were to use the Teal Wand," said Christine Conageski, MD, MSc, associate professor, OB-GYN and director of the Complex Dysplasia Clinic at the University of Colorado, [in a Teal Health](#) news release. "But access is only part of the solution. Comprehensive screening must go hand in hand with structured, reliable follow-up. That's why Teal Health's approach to not only advancing screening technology but also providing education and support to women through every step of their care and follow-up journey is crucial. That's how we ensure this breakthrough truly closes the gap."

For now, the Teal Wand requires a prescription from one of the company's online health providers.

However, Teal Health is working with insurers to provide coverage.

Teal Health will begin selling the kits in [California](#) in June before expanding to other states.

In related news, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recently announced plans to add [HPV testing via self-collection](#) to its recommendations for cervical cancer screening. This will likely mean the home test will be covered by insurance.

To learn more, click [#Cervical Cancer](#) or [#Cancer Screening](#). There, you'll find headlines such as "[A Single HPV Vaccine Dose Offers Good Protection](#)," "[What's Your HPV IQ?](#)" and "[Resources for Cervical Cancer](#)."

© 2026 Smart + Strong All Rights Reserved.

<http://beta.docker.cancerhealth.com/article/fda-oks-first-at-home-selfcollection-kit-cervical-cancer-screening>