## SCREENING FOR HPV-ASSOCIATED CANCER

Once HPV infection occurs, prevention of HPV-associated disease relies on screening. At present, screening for cervical cancer is widely accepted as cost-effective in preventing cervical cancer. Anal screening is accepted for screening in high-risk groups, though no national guidelines exist for screening intervals or ages for initiation and cessation of screening. In resource-rich countries, the primary method of cervical cancer screening is cytology via Pap smear. The American Society of Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology (ASCCP) guidelines recommend initiation of cervical cancer screening at age 21, no matter the age of sexual debut. Women 21−29 years old should have a Pap smear every 3 years if their initial and subsequent Pap smears are normal. Although adolescent and young women often test HPV DNA-positive, they are at very low risk of cervical cancer. Because the presence of HPV DNA does not correlate with the presence of high-grade squamous intraepithelial neoplasia, co-testing (testing for HPV DNA at the time of Pap smear) is not recommended for women in this age group.

As a method of determining the need for colposcopy, HPV DNA co-testing is recommended for women 25−29 years of age in whom cytology detects abnormal squamous cells of undetermined significance (ASCUS). Women 30−65 should have a Pap smear every 3 years if testing for HPV DNA is not performed. The screening interval for women in this age group can be extended to every 5 years if HPV DNA co-testing is performed and results are negative. HPV testing is not recommended for partners of women with HPV or for screening of conditions other than cervical cancer.

The role of HPV DNA testing as a primary screen for cervical cancer is changing. In the United States, there are two commercially available assays (cobas HPV Test [Roche Diagnostics] and the BD Onclarity HPV Assay [Becton, Dickinson and Company]) that are FDA approved for primary screening using HPV DNA testing. However, more assays may gain approval for usage as the feasibility and evidence for their use in various populations globally come to light. These tests can be used to detect HPV DNA in specimens obtained from the cervix without cervical cytology for women ≥25 years of age. A positive result for HPV type 16 or 18 has a high