HPV Vaccination Changes

Information for NSW General Practitioners & Aboriginal Medical Services

Please distribute this information to all staff

1. In 2018, a new 9 valent HPV vaccine (Gardasil9®) will replace Gardasil®
2. A 2-dose HPV schedule for children aged 9 – 14 years is being implemented

New HPV vaccine in 2018

- In 2018 the National Immunisation Program will adopt a new HPV vaccine which protects against 9 HPV types (9vHPV or Gardasil9®) in a 2-dose schedule given at least 6 months apart. This vaccine protects against additional high-risk HPV types to protect against over 90% of cervical cancers in women and also against additional cancers in men.
- The new 9vHPV vaccine will be available for ordering in early 2018 on NSW Health’s online vaccine ordering system at https://nsw.tollhealthcare.com/

2-dose schedule for any HPV vaccine

- The latest international studies demonstrate that a 2-dose schedule of any HPV vaccine given to individuals aged 9-14 years at least 6 months apart gives equivalent protection to a 3-dose schedule given at 0, 2 and 6 months for most individuals (see exceptions below).
- In 2017, a 2-dose 4vHPV vaccine (Gardasil®) schedule has been adopted for Year 7 students in the NSW School Vaccination Program as the second dose of HPV vaccine was deferred to accommodate the urgent roll-out of the Meningococcal W Response Program to Year 11 and 12 students. These students are therefore fully vaccinated and do not need a third dose.
- Parents are being advised of the schedule change, and those who still wish for their child to receive a third dose in 2017 can obtain it via their GP.
- A draft updated chapter of the NHMRC’s Australian Immunisation Handbook has been released to incorporate the implementation of the 2-dose HPV schedule in Australia.

Exceptions to 2-dose HPV schedule

- Some individuals are still recommended to have a 3-dose schedule at 0, 2 and 6 months, including those who receive their first dose of HPV vaccine at 15 years of age or older, and those with significant immunocompromise (detailed advice at www.health.nsw.gov.au/hpv).

Catch-up vaccination up to 19 years

- Providers can offer free HPV catch-up vaccination to adolescents aged 10-19 years under the Australian Government’s catch-up program (see www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation).
- In 2017, this means a course of Gardasil®, and can be administered as a 2-dose schedule if commenced prior to the 15th birthday, or a 3-dose schedule for those aged 15-19 years.
- In 2018 providers will be able to offer two doses of free Gardasil9® vaccine to adolescents 10-19 years of age, however adolescents who commence the schedule after their 15th birthday should pay for the third dose.
- GPs are strongly encouraged to notify each dose of HPV vaccine administered to the National HPV Register. A notification form is included with every vaccine delivery.

Further Information

- Contact your local public health unit on 1300 066 055
- RACGP’s Twilight webinar will discuss the HPV vaccination changes on November 15.

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