

East Sussex Downs & Weald PCT and Hastings & Rother PCT

Briefing sheet for General Practice re: HPV Local Enhanced Service (LES) for
17 to 18 year old girls
October 2008

1. How important is the HPV vaccination programme ?

During 2008/09 only 17-18 year old women are being offered HPV vaccine via General Practice as part of the national vaccination programme. This will apply to women born between **1 September 1990 and 31 August 1991**. Girls aged 12/13 will be offered the vaccine via a schools-based programme.

The HPV vaccination programme is an important addition to the existing vaccination schedule. Over 99% of cervical cancers are caused by HPV infection. Two high-risk types of HPV: HPV 16 and HPV 18 are responsible for over 70% of all cervical cancers in Europe. The HPV vaccine protects against these two high-risk strains.

2. How is HPV infection spread ?

HPV infection is spread primarily by sexual contact, particularly through sexual intercourse but also by non-penetrative genital contact. Risk factors for acquiring HPV infection are related to sexual behaviour – risk increases with the introduction of a new sexual partner, the sexual history of the partner and the number of previous sexual partners.

3. Why are only girls being vaccinated ?

It is not considered cost effective to vaccinate boys for HPV. Only women are included in the national HPV vaccination programme.

4. Which vaccine can be used and how is it given ?

The NHS HPV vaccination programme will be supplying Cervarix. Gardasil is not provided as part of the national vaccination programme. Those being vaccinated as part of the scheduled NHS programme can only be given Cervarix.

Three doses of HPV vaccine are required to complete the schedule. The recommended schedule is

Schedule for Cervarix® (containing HPV types 16,18)*

- First dose of 0.5ml of Cervarix® HPV vaccine.
- Second dose of 0.5ml, one to two months after the first dose.
- A third dose of 0.5ml, at least six months after the first dose.

In cases where the second dose of HPV vaccine is given late, the minimum interval between the second and third dose of Cervarix is three months.

(For more information consult the Green Book Chapter 18a

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Healthprotection/Immunisation/Greenbook/DH_4097254)

5. What is the current vaccination schedule for HPV ?

From 2009 until 2011 there will be a catch up programme for all girls under 18 years of age. Those who are currently in years 11 and 12 will receive the vaccine in 2009/10 (when they are 16-18). Those who are currently in years 9 and 10 will have the vaccine in 2010/11 (when they are 15-17).

The HPV routine and catch-up vaccination schedules for school girls in England and Wales starting in September 2008

Academic Year HPV Vaccine Given	School Year 7	School Year 8	School Year 9	School Year 10	School Year 11	School Year 12	School Year 13
2008/09							
2009/10							
2010/11							
2011/12							

Routine programme for Year 8 girls starting in September 2008 and 17-18 year olds

Catch-up programme for older girls starting in September 2009 and completing by end of academic year 2010/11

6. How do I obtain the vaccine ?

If you are providing Cervarix as part of the national vaccination programme to those aged 17-18, the vaccine will need to be ordered on a named patient basis. Requests need to be put to Claire Creagan (HPV Programme

Manager) at hpvteam@esdwpct.nhs.uk, stating the amount required and the Movianto account number.

The PCT will be writing to all women aged 17-18 inviting them to contact their practice to make an appointment to have the vaccine. The letter will explain that they are not able to obtain the vaccine without prior arrangement with the practice.

7. What if a woman is pregnant ?

As a matter of precaution, HPV vaccine is not recommended in pregnancy. If a woman is pregnant she should be advised to have the vaccine following delivery. For women who find out they are pregnant after having the vaccine, they should be reassured that the vaccine is an inactivated vaccine and that there should not be any increased risks for their babies. They should be advised to complete the vaccination programme following delivery. This should be reported to the HPA, who are monitoring these cases.

8. What advice should I give for women who are outside of the national HPV programme during 2008/09 (those aged 14,15 and 16 and those aged over 18) ?

The national Joint Committee for Vaccination and immunisation has advised that vaccination for all women aged 19-25 years is not considered cost effective.

The catch up programme will ensure that current (2008) 14, 15 and 16 year olds will be offered the vaccine by 2011. These women should be encouraged to wait until the vaccine is offered to them as part of the national programme i.e. either during 2009/10 or 2010/11.

For those born before 1 September 1990, women should be advised that they do not fall within the national vaccination programme. The reason for this is that the vaccine is unlikely to be effective for women who have commenced sexual relationships (including non-penetrative sexual contact). The advice should be that they reduce their risk of acquiring HPV by using condoms; and should routinely attend for cervical screening as part of the national cervical screening programme from 25 years on.

9. What happens if someone outside of the national HPV programme wants to pay to have the vaccine ?

If a woman outside of the national vaccination programme wishes to pay to have the vaccine, they will need to be advised that they seek out a private provider. This cannot be the patient's own GP, but can be a private clinic or a different

practice that chooses to offer the vaccine privately. Practices **can not** use Department of Health vaccine stock for private patients. Please see the guidance here:
<http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/focusprivatepractice0604?OpenDocument&H>

10. What is the advice around cervical screening ?

The vaccine does not protect against the other 30% of cancer-causing HPV types, so it is vital that women attend for routine cervical screening as per the national screening programme from the age of 25.

The following website has more information on cervical screening:
www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk/

11. What other advice should be provided to these women

When the HPV vaccine is provided, the opportunity should be taken to discuss the woman's contraception needs. Condoms should be advocated as the best means of preventing unintended pregnancies and a range of sexually transmitted infections.

The opportunity should be taken to offer a Chlamydia test (please refer to the Chlamydia LES) and there should also be a check that the women has received 2 doses of MMR, as per the MMR catch up programme (please refer to the MMR LES).

12. Where can I go if there are further queries ?

You can recommend that patients contact the **national HPV helpline on 0845 602 3303**

The following website is for members of the public:
www.immunisation.nhs.uk/Vaccines/HPV

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