

National Immunisation Schedule Changes

Changes to the HPV Immunisation Programme Fact Sheet

To: Primary Health Care Organisation Chief Executives

Expansion of eligibility from 1 January 2017

PHARMAC is extending the eligibility criteria from 1 January 2017 for HPV immunisation.

Individuals aged 9 to 26 years, including boys and young men, will be eligible for free HPV immunisation.

Boys will be included in the existing school-based immunisation programme in year 8.

As with females, boys and young men may also be immunised free through their general practice.

Women aged 20 to 26 years, who have not been previously vaccinated against HPV have the opportunity to complete the course of vaccination through general practice or other primary health care settings.

Currently, about 50 percent of young women in their early 20s have been fully immunised.

With the continuing support of general practice, the HPV immunisation rates have risen in the last few years and 65 percent of girls aged 12 years were immunised in 2015.

The vaccine

HPV9 (Gardasil 9) protects against nine types of HPV, compared with the current HPV vaccine.

The five additional types included in the vaccine means that HPV immunisation will offer protection against a greater proportion of HPV-related cancers, including cervical, anal, penile and throat and mouth cancer, and genital warts.

A copy of the medicine data sheet can be found at:

<http://medsafe.govt.nz/profs/datasheet/g/gardasil9inj.pdf>

Vaccine transition and ordering

From January 2017 Gardasil 9 can be ordered through the usual processes with ProPharma.

For patients vaccinated in early 2017, some will start the course with HPV4, depending on stock availability.

Funding for vaccines and administration will come via the Immunisation Service section of the PHO Agreement.

More information on transition of HPV 4 to 9 will be available in the next Fact Sheet.

Vaccinations for younger teenagers will reduce from three to two doses

	Age Band	Doses	Schedule
Current	All	3 doses of HPV4	0, 2 & 6mths
New 2017	Under 15yrs	2 doses of HPV9	0 & 6mths
New 2017	15-26yrs (inclusive)	3 doses of HPV9	0, 2 & 6mths

Recall messages

General practices may wish to remind:

- young people aged 14 years that they will only need two doses, providing they complete the course before they turn 15 years
- young adults aged 26 years that they are now eligible for HPV immunisation before they turn 27 years

Although there is no formal catch up programme for this vaccine, the Ministry has developed a sample recall message to assist general practices to inform their patients, potentially through patient portals.

It's important for general practices to continue vaccinating young people who decline the school based programme and recalling young people at age 14 years who have not completed or commenced the HPV programme.

IT vendor upgrades

The Ministry is working with PMS vendors on the IT changes to support your PMS programme. These need to be in place by 1 January. Please ensure your PMS programme has completed the latest updates.

Communication and implementation

The Ministry will support these changes with communications for both health professionals and members of the public through our regular channels including; the monthly Immunisation Update fax, teleconferences with DHB school programme leads, and working through health agencies to ensure that providers are aware of the changes and updating communications and resources.

The Ministry is currently updating the consent form and information videos that support the school-based programme, and will develop a pamphlet resource for general practice. Website information is also being updated.

IMAC are updating their online HPV education module, this should be available by November:

<http://www.immune.org.nz/education-and-training/hpv-vaccination-module>

This is an excellent avenue for clinical staff to update their knowledge around the disease and vaccine.

National Cervical Screening Programme (NCSP) – Changes to age for screening

HPV vaccination is the first line of defence against cervical cancer with cervical screening as the second line of defence detecting cell changes before they become cancer. As part of the transition to primary HPV screening, the NCSP has recently announced the decision to raise the starting age for screening from 20 to 25 years in 2018. There is a strong body of evidence that screening women between the ages of 20 and 24 causes more harm than good.

This change to age brings New Zealand in line with other jurisdictions such as the United Kingdom, Ireland, and many other countries in Europe.

Vaccination offers the best protection against cervical cancer in this age group and based on published data, we are starting to see early signs of success in the decline in high grade cervical abnormalities among younger women and significant drop in the number of new cases of genital warts.

More information on changes to the age for cervical screening can be found at <https://www.nsu.govt.nz>

Thank you

The Immunisation Team appreciates the support that PHOs have given to general practice providing immunisation services, and look forward to working with you further to ensure a smooth transition with the HPV programme.

Please share this information with your practices and networks.

If you have any queries about the HPV programme please contact us by the following email address:

immunisation@moh.govt.nz