

National Immunisation Schedule Changes

HPV Immunisation Programme Fact Sheet 2 (Nov 2016)

To: Primary Health Care Organisations

Key points

- From 1 January 2017, both HPV4 and HPV9 vaccines will be funded on the National Immunisation Schedule for people (male and female) aged 9 to 26 years inclusive.
- As with past Schedule changes, HPV9 will be distributed after stocks of HPV4 are used up in early 2017.
- Once HPV4 is no longer available, patients who have begun immunisation with HPV4 can continue with HPV9.
- HPV vaccine is on the NIS at age 12 years or School Year 8 but is funded from age 9 years.
- The first dose of HPV vaccine must be administered before a person turns 27 years of age to receive a funded course of vaccine.
- Those aged under 15 years need two doses with at least a 6 month gap between them.
- For those aged 15 years or over, the standard schedule is 3 doses at 0, 2 and 6 months.
- Eligible high risk¹ people, regardless of their age, will require three doses using the 0, 2 and 6 months spacing, unless an accelerated schedule is recommended by their medical specialist.

NIS changes to the HPV programme

From 1 January 2017, people aged 9 to 26 years inclusive (i.e. under 27 years) will be eligible for funded HPV vaccination, and the nine valent vaccine Gardasil 9 (HPV9) will be introduced.

Advising patients of changes

As boys will be funded for HPV vaccine from 1 January 2017, the query builders and processes that you have in place for recalling your 14 year old girls who have not commenced or completed HPV at school will need to be updated to include boys as well.

There will be no formal catch up programme for those people who are now eligible. However, providers may wish to use patient portals to ensure patients who are now in the eligible age group are aware of their entitlement.

Initial and follow up contraception consultations provide an opportunity to check your patients' HPV vaccination status and offer them the vaccine if they have not yet commenced or completed a course.

Change to Gardasil 9

The following advice has been provided regarding the change to HPV9. General practices will be able to order HPV9 from ProPharma through the usual process once stocks of HPV4 have been used up.

Before HPV9 is available: Patients who seek HPV immunisation from general practices in early 2017 should be given HPV4, regardless of age or gender. Patients who have already begun HPV immunisation should continue their course with HPV4 while stocks are available.

After HPV9 is available: When there is no more stock of HPV4 at ProPharma, HPV9 will be distributed. Practices are asked to use up stocks of HPV4 before offering HPV9.

Once HPV4 is no longer available, patients who have begun immunisation with HPV4 can continue with HPV9. This advice is consistent with international advice around the transition from HPV4 to HPV9.

¹ Confirmed HIV and transplant (including stem cell) patients aged 9 to 26 years inclusive

National Immunisation Schedule eligibility:

National Immunisation Schedule vaccines in NZ are free for all children (those aged under 18 years) regardless of their immigration status, as per the Health and Disability Services Eligibility Direction 2011. This includes the HPV vaccine.

Non-resident adults aged over 18 years of age must have commenced the vaccine prior to turning 18 years to receive a funded full vaccine course.

What about those girls who have already had two doses of HPV4 vaccine?

There is evidence that two doses of HPV4 vaccine, spaced at least six months apart, will be protective in those aged 14 or under.

However, the timing of the vaccine doses is important and most vaccinated New Zealand children would have received their first two doses about two months apart. It is not known if this shorter spacing confers any lasting protection, so a third dose is required if the first two doses were given less than six months apart.

Cold chain reminder

HPV vaccine, like all National Immunisation Schedule vaccines, is required to be stored between +2°C to +8°C. All clinical staff must be aware of the need for appropriate vaccine storage and monitoring.

All providers are required to ensure that daily minimum / maximum temperatures are recorded and the data logger is downloaded at least monthly and compared to the daily minimum / maximum records.

If your vaccine refrigerator is older than seven years, a weekly download and review your data logger information is recommended as there are instances where refrigerator temperatures outside +2°C to +8°C are only picked up on the data logger.

If you have any questions regarding cold chain please contact your Immunisation / Cold Chain Coordinator.

Education opportunities and additional information:

IMAC online HPV module:

This is a one hour free on line education module for all health professionals on HPV9

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

Dr Nikki Turner on Paediatric Immunisation:

In this Pharmac education seminar Dr Nikki Turner presents on the 2017 NIS changes with a particular emphasis on HPV.

<https://www.pharmac.govt.nz/seminars/seminar-resources/paediatrics/#paediatric4>

The HPV9 Data sheet can be found on the link below on the Medsafe website.

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

International HPV news

The United States (US) has replaced use of HPV4 with HPV9 and have also recently approved the 2 dose schedule for those aged 9-14 years. More information on this can be found at

<http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2016/p1020-hpv-shots.html>

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6411a3.htm>

