



National Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Program

Summary for General Practice

Eligibility

From 1 July 2007 until 30 June 2009, free HPV vaccine will be available through general practice and other immunisation providers for:

- females aged 12-18 years who missed doses during the school-based program; and
- females aged 18 to 26 years, however, the full course of 3 doses must be completed before the end of June 2009 and before the woman reaches age 27 years.

Free HPV vaccine will also be provided to girls at school aged between 12-18 through school-based programs, starting April 2007.

HPV vaccine has not been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for use in females younger than 9 years and older than 26 years

HPV vaccine is not funded for males under the National HPV Vaccination Program

Dosage

GARDASIL® is administered intramuscularly, usually in the upper arm, as a series of three injections over a period of six months. The optimal schedule is:

- first dose - at elected date;
- second dose - 2 months after the first dose; and
- third dose - 6 months after the first dose.

If a shorter vaccination schedule is necessary, the second dose should be administered at least one month after the first dose and the third dose should be administered at least three months after the second dose.

Contra-indications and precautions

GARDASIL® should not be given to any person who has a history of severe immediate hypersensitivity to yeast or any of the vaccine components (aluminium phosphate, sodium chloride, L-histidine, polysorbate and sodium borate), or who has had a severe allergic reaction to a previous dose of the vaccine.

GARDASIL® is not recommended for use in pregnant women. However, there is no evidence to suggest that administration of the vaccine adversely affects fertility, pregnancy or infant outcomes. If the vaccine is inadvertently administered during pregnancy, advice should be given to defer completion of the course until after the birth; there is no need to consider termination.

GARDASIL® can be administered to lactating women.

Administering GARDASIL® should be delayed in a person who has a moderate to severe febrile illness until they have fully recovered from the illness.

Cervical Cancer Screening

GARDASIL® does not protect against all causes of cervical cancer. Remind patients of the importance of ongoing cervical screening. Presentation for HPV vaccination is an ideal time to offer opportunistic cervical screening to sexually active women who are not up to date with their Pap smears.

National HPV register

A National HPV Vaccination Program Register [HPV Register] is being developed by the Australian Government to collect data about the Program. Personal details identifying your patient will be kept confidential.

Personal information collected will be used to evaluate the impact of the HPV Vaccination Program on cervical cancer rates, to issue reminders if the course is incomplete, to issue confirmation the course is complete and to contact vaccine recipients if booster doses are required. If your patient's details are not included in the Register it will not be possible to contact her about booster doses.

Information will not be sought about your patient's sexual history.

Your patients can decline having their details included in the HPV Register.

Data collection is a requirement for girls aged 12-18 years who may have received doses in the school-based program. Data collection is not a requirement for vaccinating females aged 18-26 years, however, the Register will accept data for females in this age group, if they elect to have their details included in the HPV Register.