

Keeping Your Patients Healthy Through HPV Vaccination

Providers play an essential role in helping patients understand the importance of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, particularly for pre-adolescents ages 9 – 13. We appreciate your ongoing support in educating and encouraging parents to have their children vaccinated against HPV.

A physician's recommendation is a key motivator for parents to have their child vaccinated against HPV. Nationwide studies found 60% of patients with a physician's recommendation initiated the HPV vaccine while only 24% of patients initiated the vaccine when there was no physician's recommendation¹.

The following best practices may help guide parents and patients to better understand the benefits of the HPV vaccine. Sharing this information may also help improve performance on the HPV HEDIS^{®2} (Healthcare Effectiveness and Data Information Set) quality measure.

- **Prevent cancer:** Inform or remind your patient the HPV vaccine will prevent most cases of cervical and other types of cancers caused by HPV.
- **Safety:** Tell your patient how the HPV vaccine has undergone extensive studies and is proven safe and effective – and it has been given to millions of people worldwide and has an extremely high safety record.
- **Timing:** Let your patient know the best time to get vaccinated is before exposure to HPV, which is why medical experts agree that vaccination should occur, *ideally*, before age 12.
- **Use same-day vaccinations:** When discussing vaccination schedules with patients, you can advise them that their child can receive the HPV vaccine on the same day as other recommended vaccinations, such as Tdap and meningococcal

By working together, we can increase HPV vaccination rates and help prevent most cases of cancers caused by HPV. More information about the HPV vaccine guidelines may be found in our [Immunizations for Adolescents \(IMA\) HEDIS measure tip sheet](#) located on our website under [Quality Programs: HEDIS and PQA](#). You will also find IMA information at [ncqa.org/hedis/](https://www.ncqa.org/hedis/).

Thank you for your dedication to keeping our members healthy and HPV-free.

¹ Oh, N. L., Biddell, C., Rhodes, B., Brewer, N (2021, July) Provider Communication and HPV Vaccine Update: A Meta-Analysis and Systemic Review. Sciencedirect.com. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0091743521001389>

² HEDIS is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

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