

# **Increasing HPV Vaccine Coverage: A Best Practices Resource Guide**



IHS Immunization Program 2016

The strategies listed in this document are based off of scientific literature and experience in IHS, Tribal, and Urban (I/T/U) healthcare settings.

# Issues Affecting HPV Vaccination Rates

- Patients don't receive all recommended vaccines while they are at the clinic
- Patients receive the first dose of the HPV vaccine, but not the second or third dose
- Providers don't give a strong recommendation for the HPV vaccine
- Patients and parents have concerns about the HPV vaccine

# Issue: Patients don't receive all recommended vaccines while they are at the clinic

## Strategies:

- Promote simultaneous administration of ALL recommended vaccines
  - Tdap, Meningococcal, Flu, and HPV vaccines can be administered during the same visit
- Assess immunizations at every visit
  - As a part of pre-visit planning, review immunization history at every visit.
- Implement Standing Orders
  - Standing orders allow clinic staff to administer the HPV vaccine without a doctor having to order it first
    - Vaccine Standing Orders for Healthcare Providers, by the Immunization Action Coalition
- Increase access to immunizations
  - Consider offering walk-in immunization visits, nurse-only immunization visits, and/or pharmacy-based immunization
  - Establish regular catch-up vaccination day
    - One day a week, month, etc.,
  - Establish an HPV vaccine clinic day on a regular basis, e.g. monthly
  - Administer vaccines at all types of visit:
    - Acute care, preventive care, women's health, STD, walk-in, etc.
  - Vaccinate outside of the clinic
    - School health clinic, health fairs, home visits, etc.
- Establish reminder/recall process for vaccines
  - Schedule subsequent doses while the patient is in the clinic
  - Give patients a card that has the dates of future appointments
  - Have a reminder/recall system in place to remind patients of upcoming vaccines

# Issue: Patients receive the first dose of the HPV vaccine, but not the second or third dose

## Strategies:

- Educate parents and patients that HPV vaccine is a 3 dose series
  - Stress that all 3 doses are needed to assure long term protection
    - Example:
      - “I want to make sure that your son/daughter receives all 3 shots of HPV vaccine to give them the best possible protection from cancer caused by HPV. Please make sure to make appointments on the way out, and put those appointments on your calendar before you leave the office today”
- Increase access to immunizations
  - Consider offering walk-in immunization visits, nurse-only immunization visits, and/or pharmacy-based immunization
- Have a reminder/recall system in place to remind patients of upcoming vaccines
  - Use the tools in RPMS to create reminder letters
  - Place a sticker on reminder letters to distinguish it from other clinic mail
- Check with your state immunization program for reminder/recall tools
- Use available patient reminder tools from the vaccine manufacturers
  - Parents/patients can sign up for reminders available on the manufacturer’s website
    - [Merck's "3 to Complete" Reminder Sign Up](#)
    - [GlaxoSmithKline Vaccine Reminder System Sign up](#)
  - Give out free reminder products to patients in the clinic
- Schedule appointments for doses 2 and 3 before the patient leaves the clinic
- Have a dedicated staff member to make reminder calls to patients for upcoming appointments

# Issue: Providers don't give a strong recommendation for the HPV vaccine

## Strategies:

- Educate yourself and other providers about the importance of HPV vaccine
  - [CDC's "You are the Key to Cancer Prevention"](#)
- Frame the vaccine conversation in a way that highlights the importance of adolescents receiving all three recommended adolescent vaccines
  - Parents should come away from the conversation with an understanding that the HPV vaccine is needed, rather than an optional or additional vaccine.
- Emphasize that the HPV vaccine is cancer prevention
- Share your personal belief in and/or stories about the importance of HPV vaccine
  - See examples of parent-provider conversations
    - [Examples of parent-provider conversations](#)
    - [Talking about the HPV vaccine tip sheet](#)

# Issue: Patients and parents have concerns about the HPV vaccine

## Strategies:

- Educate parents about the importance of HPV vaccine
  - HPV is Cancer Prevention
  - Most common parental concerns
    - Parents are unclear about what the vaccine actually protects against
    - Parents may be concerned that vaccinating may be perceived by the child as permission to have sex
    - Parents may believe their child won't be exposed to HPV because they aren't sexually active or may not be for a long time
    - Parents want to know that the vaccine is safe
    - Parents want to know that the vaccine is effective
  - Provider-Parent Conversation examples
  - Talking about the HPV vaccine tip sheet
- Share patient education materials
  - HPV Cancer Fact Sheet
  - Genital HPV Infection Fact Sheet
  - HPV and Men Fact Sheet
- Provide information about HPV in community newsletters and at community events
  - Back-to-School night
  - Community health events
- Include information about all recommended adolescent vaccines in school registration materials