

Practice Pointers

A monthly quality bulletin for Care1st PCPs and Office Staff

HPV – Why it should be given

HPV: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) now recommend 11-to-12-year olds get two doses of HPV vaccine — rather than the previously recommended three doses — to protect against cancers caused by HPV, including cancers of the cervix, vagina, penis and throat.

Only about 65% of girls receive the first dose of HPV vaccine, and 56% of boys receive the first dose. **Less than half of teens are up to date on all recommended doses of HPV vaccine.**



Clinicians should **recommend HPV vaccination in the same way and on the same day as all adolescent vaccines.** Also, remind parents of the follow-up shots their child will need and ask them to make appointments before they leave.

Suggested talking points for providers from the CDC include:

Tell parents: “Now that your child is 11, he/she is due for vaccinations today to help protect him from meningitis, HPV cancers, and pertussis.”

Q: Why does my child need HPV vaccine at such a young age?

A: Like all vaccines, we want to give HPV vaccine earlier rather than later. If you wait, your child may need three shots instead of two.

Q: I’m worried my child will think that getting this vaccine makes it OK to have sex.

A: Studies tell us that getting HPV vaccine doesn’t make kids more likely to start having sex. I recommend we give your child her first HPV shot today.

Get HPV vaccination resources at <https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/hcp/answering-questions.html>.

If a parent chooses not to HPV vaccine for their child, a vaccine refusal form should be completed and kept in the medical record.

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