

Cancer Prevention Through HPV Vaccination in Your **Practice:** An Action Guide for Nurses and Medical Assistants



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The National HPV Vaccination Roundtable would like to thank all members of the Provider Training Task Group for participating in the development of the six clinical action guides. Visit our website to view the entire suite of guides.¹



A Collaborative Project: The Clinician & Systems Action Guides are a collaborative project of the Provider Training Task Group of the National HPV Vaccination Roundtable. Guides do not necessarily represent the views of all HPV Roundtable member organizations.

Funding: Funding for this guide was made possible (in part) by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Cooperative Agreement grant number NH23IP922551-01, CFDA # 93.733. The content in this guide does not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services, nor does the mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

Version 2.0 released September 2019.



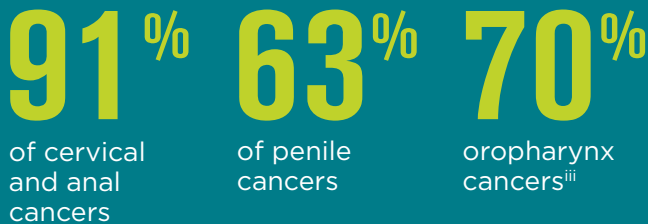
You have the power to reduce the incidence of human papillomavirus (HPV) cancers and pre-cancers among patients in your care. **HPV cancer prevention starts with you.**

Vaccinating patients with the HPV vaccine can prevent future suffering and may save patients' lives. **Strongly and clearly recommend HPV vaccination to all eligible patients.**

The Problem

With the HPV vaccine, we have the power to prevent cancer, yet vaccination rates lag behind those of other preteen vaccines. HPV causes about 34,800 cases of cancer in men and women each year in the U.S.ⁱ Nearly all cases of cervical cancer are caused by HPV, and the virus also causes cancers of the vagina, vulva, penis, anus, and oropharynx.ⁱⁱ

HPV is linked with:



The HPV vaccine prevents infection by virus types that cause the vast majority of these cancers and genital warts. In fact, HPV vaccination may help to eliminate cervical cancer, which takes the lives of over 4,000 women in the U.S. each year.^{iv}

Missed opportunities for vaccination contribute to low HPV vaccination rates. A high-quality recommendation from a clinician is a powerful motivator of HPV vaccine acceptance, but many clinicians deliver the HPV vaccine recommendation hesitantly, late, or not at all.^v

The Solution

The HPV vaccine is cancer prevention. Boys and girls should get the HPV vaccine series at age 11 or 12. The vaccine can be given starting as early as age 9. The HPV vaccine is most effective when given before age 13 to achieve the best immune response, and it provides long-lasting protection.^{vi}

HPV vaccination works. Infections with the HPV types that cause most HPV cancers and genital warts have dropped 71% among teen girls since children first started getting the vaccine in 2006.^{vii} [Get more facts.](#)²



Make it your goal for every age-eligible patient you care for to be vaccinated against HPV.

Every member of a practice plays a critical role in understanding and advocating for HPV vaccination as cancer prevention and should work together to reduce missed opportunities for vaccination.

Be a part of the cancer prevention community.

The pages that follow outline actions you can take to increase HPV vaccination within your practice **today.**



Actions At-A-Glance

Visit the action associated with each item below for detailed guidance.

Evidence-based interventions:

Electronic health records

Action 4

Provider prompts

Action 4

Standing orders

Action 5

Other strategies you can use:

Know and use your influence

Action 1, Action 2

Answer parents' questions

Action 3

Minimize missed opportunities

Action 4

Create a pro-immunization environment

Patient Education Tools

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

■ Action 1 Use your influence to encourage cancer prevention

Nurses and medical assistants are often the first health professionals to meet with patients. You set the tone for the visit by welcoming patients and checking in on their needs. You can make the difference between whether or not children leave their visit protected from HPV cancers.

- Know that your voice is powerful. Your patients see you as a trusted health professional.
- Use your power of influence to normalize the HPV vaccine as part of the adolescent vaccination “bundle.” For example,
“I see from your health record that your child needs three shots today—meningococcal, HPV, and Tdap vaccines.”

- Research shows that parents place just as much value on the HPV vaccine as on other adolescent vaccines. Position the HPV vaccine as cancer prevention.^{viii}
- The biggest predictor of HPV vaccination uptake is an effective recommendation from a clinician.^{ix} In fact, recent studies show that a patient who receives a provider recommendation is 4–5 times more likely to receive the HPV vaccine.^x

■ Action 2 Exemplify a pro-immunization attitude

Your words matter. Know and represent the philosophy and [policies](#)³ of your practice to help parents protect their children.

- Familiarize yourself and your colleagues with methods to [improve vaccine delivery](#).⁴
- During pre-clinic team meetings or [huddles](#),⁵ review which patients are due for vaccination. Work together to use consistent vaccine messaging.
- Share [promising practices](#)⁶ and lessons learned with your colleagues at staff meetings.



■ Action 3 Answer parents' questions

Your influence begins the moment you greet a patient or parent or answer their phone calls. Answering parents' questions effectively builds trust in your practice and enhances your credibility.

- Emphasize that the vaccine is **safe, effective, and prevents cancer**⁷ and that adolescents at ages 11-12 have the **most robust immune response**.⁸
- Let parents know that it is your practice's policy to prevent cancer through vaccination.
- Provide parents with **fact sheets**⁹ if needed.
- **Be prepared**¹⁰ to answer **parents' frequently asked questions**.¹¹ For example:
 - If parents question the **need** for the vaccine, you can say,
"The HPV vaccine is important because it prevents infections that can cause cancer. That's why your son/daughter needs to start the shot series today."
 - If parents ask about the **safety** of the vaccine, you can say,
"HPV vaccination is very safe. Like any medication, vaccines can cause side effects, including pain, swelling, or redness where the shot was given. That's normal for the HPV vaccine too and should go away in a day or two. Sometimes kids faint after they get shots and they could be injured if they fall from fainting. We'll protect your child by having them stay seated after the shot."
 - Use personal examples if possible, for example,
"My child was vaccinated at 11 for protection against HPV cancers."



For older patients who were not vaccinated on time (i.e., at ages 11-12), vaccination may be given up to age 26 for females and males. Consult the Immunization Action Coalition's [Ask the Experts](#)¹² HPV forum for guidance.

■ Action 4 Minimize missed opportunities

Champion workflows that improve on HPV vaccination delivery and reduce missed opportunities.

- Plan for visits. Before patients arrive, know who is due for the HPV vaccine. In most cases, patients can get the HPV vaccine during well-child, sick-child, or chronic care visits.
- Work as a team to make effective use of [provider prompts](#)¹³ in your electronic health records (EHR) and reconcile your EHR with your state's [immunization information system \(IIS\)](#)¹⁴ to [pull down/upload](#)¹⁵ current vaccination records (if these systems are linked in your practice).
- Verbally prompt clinicians to recommend HPV vaccination when speaking with parents of age-eligible patients.
- If a patient will need to return for a follow-up HPV vaccine dose, schedule their next visit before they leave. Encourage parents to make a note in their smartphone or calendar to remember the appointment.

■ Action 5 Take the lead

- If your practice allows for [standing orders](#)¹⁶ (procedures to facilitate efficient delivery of vaccines to age-eligible patients by properly trained medical staff other than a physician), vaccinate every eligible patient during their visit.
- If standing orders are not in place:
 - [Encourage parents](#)¹⁷ to protect their children through vaccination.
 - Ask your leadership to consider establishing standing orders.

Resource Citations:

ⁱ <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/hpv/statistics/cases.htm>

ⁱⁱ Ibid.

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid.

^{iv} <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/cervical/statistics/index.htm>

^v <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2016/12/01/peds.2016-1764.full>

^{vi} <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/140/6/e20163947.full>

^{vii} <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6633a2.htm>

^{viii} Adapted from Healy et al. Vaccine. 2014; 32:579-584.

^{ix} <https://deainfo.nci.nih.gov/advisory/pcp/annualReports/HPV/Part3Goal1.htm>

^x http://www.immunize.org/letter/recommend_hpv_vaccination.pdf



If your practice implements changes and sees positive results in your HPV vaccination rates, let us know! Please send your story to HPV.Vaccination.Roundtable@cancer.org.

Looking for action guides to share with other clinicians and staff?

Find [companion guides](#)¹⁸ tailored to physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants; office teams; dental providers; large health systems; and small private practices in the National HPV Vaccination Roundtable's [Resource Library](#).¹⁹

Work with your office team to create a pro-immunization environment by displaying posters, brochures, flyers, and handouts. Use pro-immunization messaging on your online channels including patient portals, your practice website, and social media outlets.

Materials you can use:

- Adolescent immunization schedules²⁰
- Fact sheet: Diseases and the Vaccines that Prevent Them: HPV²¹
- Flyers and posters: CDC's Flyers and Posters for Preteens and Teens²²



- Industry handout: 4 Things a Parent Needs to Know About Human Papillomavirus (HPV)²³
- Sample flyer: HPV Vaccine: Cancer Prevention for Boys and Girls²⁴
- Social media messages: HPV Vaccine Myth Busting for Health Care Providers Social Media Toolkit²⁵

Follow the National HPV Vaccination Roundtable:



<https://twitter.com/HPVRoundtable>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HPVCancerFreeFamily>

National HPV Vaccination Roundtable Resources:

- Elearning module: Increasing Adolescent Immunization Coverage^{26,27}
- HPV Resource Library²⁸
- HPV survivor videos²⁹
- Middle School Health Parent Toolkit³⁰
- Short video: *Protecting Your Patients from HPV-Associated Cancer: What Providers Need to Know about Oropharyngeal Cancer*³¹

HPV Roundtable Member Resources:

- ACS: Just the Facts³²
- ACS: Steps to Increasing Vaccination in Your Practice³³
- AAFP: Immunizations website³⁴
- AAP: Changing the Future: Preventing HPV Cancers—Tip Sheet for Nursing Personnel³⁵
- AAP: HPV Champion Toolkit³⁶
- ACOG: HPV Vaccination Toolkit³⁷
- CDC: Clinician Fact Sheets and Guidance³⁸
- CDC: HPV Safety Fact Sheet³⁹
- CDC: Provider Resources for Vaccine Conversations with Parents⁴⁰
- NCI-designated Cancer Centers: Consensus statement on “NCI-designated Cancer Centers Urge HPV Vaccination for the Prevention of Cancer”⁴¹
- UNITY Consortium: White paper on “Adolescent Immunization: Understanding Challenges and Framing Solutions for Healthcare Providers”⁴²
- UNITY Consortium: Videos on the “Pursuit of the Three Cs: Confident, Concise, and Consistent Healthcare Provider Recommendations for Adolescent Vaccines”⁴³
- UNITY Consortium: Presentation on “Three Cs: Health Care Provider Recommendations and FAQs”⁴⁴

APPENDIX: NURSES & MEDICAL ASSISTANTS

1. Suite of guides: <http://hpvroundtable.org/task-groups/action-guides/>
2. Get more facts: <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/online-documents/en/pdf/flyers/hpv-vacs-just-the-facts-for-providers.pdf>
3. Policies: <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2067.pdf>
4. Improve vaccine delivery: <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2045.pdf>
5. Huddles: https://www.aap.org/en-us/Documents/hpvtool-kit_teamhuddle_hpv_2015_may.pdf
6. Promising practices: <https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/champions/winner-spotlights.html>
7. Safe, effective, and prevents cancer: <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2017/02/02/peds.2016-4187#xref-ref-14-1>
8. Most robust immune response: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G66x1EEVZzA&feature=youtu.be>
9. Fact sheets: <https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/hcp/provide-parents.html>
10. Be prepared: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/hcp/hpvideoes.html>
11. Parents' frequently asked questions: <https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/hcp/for-hcp-tip-sheet-hpv.html>
12. Ask the Experts: http://www.immunize.org/askexperts/experts_hpv.asp
13. Provider prompts: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4762366/>
14. Immunization information system (IIS): <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/iis/contacts-locate-records.html>
15. Pull down/upload: https://www.aap.org/en-us/Documents/healthInitiatives_hpvtoolkit_cleaning_iis_data_2015.pdf
16. Standing orders: <http://www.immunize.org/standing-orders/>
17. Encourage parents: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/conversations/index.html>
18. Companion guides: <http://hpvroundtable.org/task-groups/action-guides/>
19. Resource Library: <http://hpvroundtable.org/resource-library/>
20. Adolescent immunization schedules: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/child-adolescent.html>
21. Diseases and the Vaccine that Prevent Them: HPV: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/diseases/teen/hpv.html>
22. CDC's Flyers and Posters for Preteens and Teens: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/partners/teens/posters.html>
23. 4 Things a Parent Needs to Know About Human Papilloma-virus (HPV): https://www.hpv.com/static/pdf/MKHPV_FACT_SHEET.pdf
24. HPV Vaccine Myth Busting for Health Care Providers Social Media Toolkit: <https://smhs.gwu.edu/cancercontroltap/sites/cancercontroltap/files/HPV%20Vaccine%20Social%20Media%20Toolkit%20FINAL.pdf>
25. HPV Vaccine: Cancer Prevention for Boys and Girls: <https://www.mdanderson.org/content/dam/mdanderson/documents/about-md-anderson/Community%20Services/HP-Vaccine.pdf>
26. As of 2019, this CME is no longer available. Please see <http://hpvroundtable.org/resource-library/#filter=.cme> for CME options.
27. Non-credit version: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pS-SZa3LY9k&feature=youtu.be#01>
28. HPV Resource Library: <http://hpvroundtable.org/resource-library/>
29. HPV survivor videos: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-FbdPY2DhTk&list=PLRuOuHzo7TdJzR83_C2ACchJl-cFw-AbTc
30. Middle School Health Parent Toolkit: <https://www.nasn.org/nasn/programs/educational-initiatives/middle-school-health/middle-school-health-parents>
31. Protecting Your Patients from HPV-Associated Cancer: What Providers Need to Know about Oropharyngeal Cancer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qnwb2-y_yPU&list=PLRuOuHzo7TdKdq1TstwyNbSn0KMI8L4--&index=13
32. Just the Facts: <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/online-documents/en/pdf/flyers/hpv-vacs-just-the-facts-for-providers.pdf>
33. Steps to Increasing Vaccination in Your Practice: <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/online-documents/en/pdf/flyers/steps-for-increasing-hpv-vaccination-in-practice.pdf>
34. Immunizations website: <http://www.aafp.org/patient-care/public-health/immunizations.html>
35. Changing the Future: Preventing HPV Cancers—Tip Sheet for Nursing Personnel: <https://www.aap.org/en-us/Documents/NursingTipSheet-Print.pdf>
36. HPV Champion Toolkit: <https://www.aap.org/en-us/ad-vocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/immunizations/HPV-Champion-Toolkit/Pages/HPV-Champion-Toolkit.aspx>
37. HPV Vaccination Toolkit: <http://immunizationforwomen.org/toolkit/hpv>
38. Clinician Fact Sheets and Guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/hcp/clinician-factsheet.html>
39. HPV Safety Fact Sheet: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/partners/downloads/teens/vaccine-safety.pdf>
40. Provider Resources for Vaccine Conversations with Parents: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/conversations/index.html>
41. "NCI-designated Cancer centers Urge HPV Vaccination for the Prevention of Cancer": https://healthcaredelivery.cancer.gov/hpvuptake/nci_hpv_consensus_statement_012716.pdf
42. "Adolescent Immunization: Understanding Challenges and

Framing Solutions for Healthcare Providers”: <http://www.unity4teenvax.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Unity-White-paper-FINAL-May-2017.pdf>

43. “Pursuit of the Three Cs: Confident, Concise, and Consistent Healthcare Provider Recommendations for Adolescent Vaccines”: <http://www.unity4teenvax.org/unity-projects/>
44. “Three Cs: Health Care Provider Recommendations and FAQs”: <http://www.unity4teenvax.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Three-Cs-FAQs-November-2017.pdf>