

MEMO

TO: Prevention Partnership Providers and
Local Public Health Units

FROM: Tatia Hardy
VFC/AFIX Coordinator

RE: New HPV Vaccine Coverage

DATE: January 6, 2010

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Gardasil®, Merck's quadrivalent human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, for use in males ages 9 – 26 for the prevention of genital warts due to HPV types 6 and 11. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has issued provisional recommendations indicating that the three-dose series may be given to males ages 9-26 to reduce their likelihood of acquiring genital warts.

Effective immediately, the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) will begin offering Gardasil® to all providers for administration to Vaccines for Children-eligible males ages 9-18. To be eligible for Vaccines for Children (VFC) vaccine, children (18 and younger) must meet one of the following criteria: American Indian or Alaska Native, Medicaid-eligible, uninsured or underinsured. **As of January 1, 2010, state-supplied HPV vaccine is available for underinsured and uninsured adult males ages 22-26.** As of January 1, 2010, North Dakota Medicaid covers HPV vaccine for males ages 19 – 21 years, so private supplies of Gardasil® should be used for this age group and Medicaid billed. Men, ages 22 – 26 years with North Dakota Medicaid, may be given state-supplied vaccine, since the vaccine is not covered by Medicaid.

Gardasil® protects against four types of HPV, two of which are responsible for 70 percent of cervical and anal cancers, and HPV-associated penile and throat-and-neck cancers. The other two cause 90 percent of genital warts cases. The ACIP recommends routine vaccination of females ages 11 – 12 years. The ACIP also recommends catch-up vaccination of those between the ages 13 – 26 years not previously vaccinated. The vaccine can be given to children as young as nine years of age if necessary. Gardasil® should be administered in a three-dose schedule. The second and third doses are recommended to be given two and six months after the first dose. The minimum interval between the first and second doses is four weeks and 12 weeks between the second and third doses. The third dose must be given at a minimum of 24 weeks after the first dose.

When using state-supplied HPV vaccine, the maximum administration fee that can be charged is \$13.90. People receiving state-supplied vaccine should not be billed for the cost of the vaccine.

The doses must be entered into the North Dakota Immunization Information System (NDIIS). Enclosed is an updated NDDoH Vaccine Coverage Table.

Please contact the NDDoH Immunization Program with any questions or concerns at 701.328.3386 or toll-free at 800.472.2180.

Enc.

cc: Dr. Craig Lambrecht, Medical Director
Kirby Kruger, Director
Molly Sander, Immunization Program Manager
Abbi Pierce, Immunization Surveillance Coordinator
Teri Arso, Administrative Assistant