



Health

Public Health and Primary Health Care Division
Communicable Disease Control
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November 19, 2012

Dear Health Care Provider:

RE: Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine – NEW Eligibility Criteria

HPV vaccine is now available free-of-charge to:

- Females 9 to \leq 26 years of age with increased risk of getting HPV, as determined by a health care provider.

Risk factors **can** include:

- Early onset of sexual activity
- Multiple sex partners
- A previous sexually transmitted infection (STI)
- Adolescent pregnancy
- An immune system weakened by disease or medical treatment
- Previous abnormal Pap tests
- Family history of HPV-associated cancers

The *Questions and Answers for Public Health Nurses* document (http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/docs/hpv_phn.pdf) is currently being updated and will provide additional information to assist providers in assessing a patient's risk for getting HPV.

Immunization providers are encouraged to consult with the Manitoba Immunization Monitoring System (MIMS) and/or eChart to determine if an individual has already received any doses of HPV vaccine.

Promotion:

Starting in December, Manitoba Health will be promoting the new criteria by:

- Having awareness raising posters available to be ordered from our website (refer to link below) for health care providers to post in public areas where girls/women and parents/guardians frequent
- Employing social media tools (i.e. *Facebook, Twitter*)
- Updating the HPV information on the website including posting a new factsheet specific for the school-based program

Manitoba Health is also planning to mail a reminder letter in January 2013 to parents/guardians of girls born in 1997 or later who missed 0, 1 or 2 doses of the HPV vaccine when they were in Grade 6.

For more information on Manitoba Health's HPV Immunization Program (e.g. factsheets, provincial/national resources, etc.), please visit:

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/index.html>

The Product Monograph for Gardasil® is available online at:

http://www.merck.ca/assets/en/pdf/products/GARDASIL-PM_E.pdf

For Manitoba Health eligibility criteria, please visit:

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/vaccineeligibility.html>

For Manitoba's Routine Childhood Immunization Schedule, please visit:

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/schedules.html>

Please share this information with all relevant colleagues in your facility or clinic.

Sincerely,

"Original Signed By"

Kathleen Messner R.N. B.N.
Director, Communicable Disease Control