

Provider Tips and Talking Points for Discussing Vaccines

- **Frame all conversations about HPV vaccine as cancer prevention.**
- **Recommend HPV vaccine to all 11-12 year olds AND those not previously vaccinated. Don't miss an opportunity. Discuss at well visits, but don't forget to address and give vaccines at other health care visits too, if necessary.**
- **Present all vaccines equally and alphabetically.**

Example: "Sam needs three vaccines today, all are recommended for 11-12 year olds. HPV vaccine prevents certain cancers caused by the human papillomavirus, MCV4 vaccine prevents four strains of meningitis, a brain infection, and Tdap is a booster against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis or whooping cough. All are effective and safe to be administered together today per the ACIP and CDC."
- **Present vaccines with confidence – don't anticipate or expect an argument. Expect a "Yes".**
- **Address parental and teen concerns or fears with facts** (see [Addressing Parents' Top Questions About HPV Vaccine](#)).
 - **How common is HPV and how likely is it I could get cancer?**
Every year in the U.S., 27,000 people get cancer caused by HPV. That's one person every 20 minutes of every day for a year. Most of these cancers can be prevented by the HPV vaccine (<https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/parents/cancer.html>. Accessed on 9/20/16).
 - **I hate shots.**
No one likes shots, however the infections you could get if you are not immunized can be worse.
 - **My parents will think I am sexually active if I get it.**
The HPV vaccine is to help prevent cancer in the future so we recommend getting the vaccine once you turn 11 years old to begin protection as early as possible - hopefully before you could be exposed to HPV. I am happy to tell your parent that this vaccine is recommended for **all** teens.
 - **Can I just get it later?**
Science tell us that the earlier you're vaccinated, the better your protection will be against getting cancer caused by HPV. This isn't something you want to delay too long. How about you schedule an appointment today to come back and get the vaccine in one month?
 - **Why does my child need it when he/she is so young?**
Pre-teens have a higher immune response to HPV vaccine than older teens. While there may be a lower risk of exposure to HPV before age 13, the risk of exposure increases thereafter. The Advisory Council on Immunization Practices (ACIP), which is part of the CDC, recommends both boys and girls get the HPV vaccine at 11-12 years of age.
- **Always schedule follow up visits for the next vaccine at the same time the teen receives his/her first dose.**