

A Nurse-Led HPV Vaccination Education Program for Public Health Nurses in Saudi Arabia

Background: HPV is a common virus that is responsible for the majority, 95%, of cervical cancer cases worldwide. In 2020, the World Health Organization adopted a global strategy to eliminate cervical cancer through prevention and control. Subsequently, the HPV-4 vaccine was approved for use in Saudi Arabia for the first time in 2023. The Saudi Arabia Ministry of Health will implement a vaccine campaign focused on adolescent girls, age 13, through a school-based vaccine program to prevent cervical cancer this year.

Aim of the Project: To educate public health nurses in Saudi Arabia about the human papillomavirus, HPV-4 vaccination, and to address common concerns of adolescents and their families related to the vaccine prior to implementing a school-based HPV-4 vaccine campaign of adolescent girls.

Details of the Project: NAPNAP was asked to collaborate with local public health nurse leaders and a health education consultant to develop an educational program for nurses in Saudi Arabia. Collaboratively we developed three education modules focused on the following objectives: 1. Increase knowledge of the currently available HPV vaccine program in Saudi Arabia; 2. Identify and address concerns about HPV vaccination among adolescent girls and their families; and 3. Review current data related to human papillomavirus infection and vaccination. The group met over the course of 5 months to prepare and practice the presentation.

Outcomes: The educational program was delivered to public health nurses in June of 2023. Fifty public health nurses attended the educational program in Riyadh and an additional 300+ participated synchronously online.

Discussion: This educational collaboration is an important step in the primary prevention of cervical cancer in Saudi Arabia. Public health nurses are an integral part of this effort and will be providing education and administering HPV-4 vaccine nationwide this year.

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