

# What are YOU doing to protect your patients from HPV?

## Recent statistics show:

- Only 53% of girls and 8.9% of boys received at least 1 dose of Gardasil.
- Only 33% finish the 3-dose series of Gardasil.
- If Gardasil was given every time a clinician gave a Tdap or MCV4 dose, HPV vaccine coverage would be over 80%.
- If Gardasil was administered during regular doctor visits, coverage with one or more doses could be as high as 93%.
- Most parents do not know enough about HPV or feel it is not needed or not recommended by their physicians to be comfortable enough to give it to their children.

## To improve HPV vaccination rates in your office, try the following:

- Remind medical staff that a strong recommendation from them is the single best predictor of vaccination.
- Remind all medical staff members that Gardasil has been recommended for routine vaccination of all patients (male and female) by the ACIP at 11-12 years of age. Catch-up is recommended for patients age 13-26 years of age.
- It is best to start the Gardasil series at 11-12 years of age as recommended because as the patients get older you are less likely to see them in the office.
- Give all staff members copies of the “Tips and Time-savers for Talking with Parents about HPV Vaccine” so your staff understands the importance of Gardasil and will be better prepared to answer patient’s questions.
- Review office policies or make office policies that help prevent “missed opportunities” from occurring. The best way to do this is to have an MA or Nurse check a patient’s immunization status each time they come in for an office visit – sick or well. Many patients receive the 1<sup>st</sup> dose in the series but fail to get the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> doses. Adolescents don’t come in very often so you need to take every opportunity they are in the office to check their vaccination status.
- Make sure all providers in the office know when it is appropriate to give vaccines (most vaccines can be given if the patient has a minor illness).
- Set up a recall appointment for all patients for their 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> doses of HPV vaccination as they are leaving the office when they get their 1<sup>st</sup> dose. Your practice management system may allow you to do this in the form of a “lab” or “nurse” type visit so you don’t have to schedule any time with the provider for these 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> doses.
- Print out a list from your EMR of patients who have not completed the series and send them a post card or follow up with a phone call to get them scheduled for their 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> doses.
- Check for series completion when patients come in for their annual flu shots.