Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine for Female Adolescents

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the United States and can be spread even when the infected person doesn’t show signs of infection. Certain types of HPV can cause cancers and other problems in females. An effective vaccine to diminish the possibility of cancer is currently available and is recommended for female adolescents.2

Note: The latest recommendations for this vaccine are to give it to boys and girls.3 The HEDIS metric remains focused on girls because the main reason for vaccination is prevention of HPV-induced cervical cancer.

Measure

Female adolescents who had three doses of the HPV vaccine before their 13th birthday.4

Exclusions

Female only

What to look for

At least three HPV vaccinations:

• With different dates of service
• On or between the member’s 9th and 13th birthdays

Tips for provider when talking to the patient:

• A recommendation from you or your office is a powerful motivator to comply with vaccination recommendations.
• Try to make appointments for the whole series of shots at the time of initial visit.
• Give the patient or parent a reminder card for the next vaccination appointment when they leave your office.
• Consult the IIS (Immunization Information System) and note immunization rates and when your patient is due for the next in the series of immunizations.
• Send email, text, and post card reminders.
• Review the child’s immunization record at every visit and administer needed vaccines.
• Don’t avoid counseling for this vaccination because it seems to relate to sex. Focus on the cancer prevention benefits and how the vaccination produces the strongest protection when done during the recommended time period.

1 HEDIS is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).