

The HPV Series: Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and Other Cancers Issue 10: June 30, 2014

Through financial support from The Department of Health and Mental Health (DHMH) it is our pleasure to share with you a series dedicated to the HPV vaccine in the pediatric setting. Each issue will present a literature review for the provider with questions and answers on key issues for parents and caretakers. The AAP and CDC have both recommended vaccination starting at eleven to twelve years of age for both boys and girls; however, the vaccine still remains poorly utilized.¹

According to the 2012 CDC National Immunization Survey, Maryland rates of HPV vaccination are slightly below US rates, as indicated in the chart below.

HPV Vaccination Rates*

	MD	U.S.
Girls/3 doses of HPV vaccine	31%	33%
Boys/1 dose of HPV vaccine	20%	21%

*Source- 2012 CDC National Immunization Survey

A recent report from the President's Cancer Panel on accelerating HPV vaccine uptake cites missed opportunities with providers as a major documented barrier to the uptake of the HPV vaccine.¹ According to the report, physicians' recommendation for HPV vaccines to parents and other caregivers is the strongest predictor of HPV vaccination among adolescents.

New school immunization requirements will be effective at the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year for Maryland students entering 7th grade (Tdap, Meningococcal [MCV4]). This will bring providers an influx of patients that are also age-eligible for HPV vaccination. When your patients and their parents come to your office for these newly-required vaccinations, please take the opportunity to discuss and administer the HPV vaccine (3 doses). While this vaccination is not required for school entry, it is recommended for adolescents by CDC, AAP, AAFP, and the Maryland Medicaid Program.

In light of these requirements, providers have been asked to ensure that their office is able to meet the increased demand for vaccination and vaccination documentation. This should also include preparation for increased HPV vaccination. If there is a concern regarding the cost of the HPV vaccine, providers should be reminded of the Maryland Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. Designed to remove cost as a barrier to vaccination, this program allows enrolled physicians to provide all routinely recommended vaccines, free of cost, to children 18 years old and younger who: are Maryland Medicaid eligible; are uninsured; or are Native American or Alaskan Native. To enroll, a physician simply completes and returns the Vaccines for Children enrollment package, available at:

http://phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/IMMUN/Shared%20Documents/New%20Enrollment%20Pre-Site%20Cover%20Letter_Apr%202012.pdf .

¹ Accelerating HPV Vaccine Uptake: Urgency for Action to Prevent Cancer. A Report to the President of the United States from the President's Cancer Panel. Bethesda, MD: National Cancer Institute; 2014

This issue concludes the MDAAP series on HPV. Please look for a special editorial about HPV in the next issue of the MDDAP Newsletter.

The chapter expresses gratitude to DHMH, Drs. Theo Wilson, Oscar Taube and Anne Bailowitz. We appreciate their efforts in preparing and reviewing this material.

Please check out the DHMH website for more information on Maryland's Statewide HPV Vaccination Campaign. This website, newly developed, includes information and tools for Maryland providers and parents on HPV Vaccination.

<http://phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/cancer/SitePages/HPV.aspx>