

Expansion of the HPV Vaccine Program

Attention: Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Family Health Teams, Walk-in Clinics, Pharmacies

Date: August 25, 2016

Effective September 2016, Ontario is expanding the publicly funded HPV immunization program to include men who have sex with men (MSM) up to 26 years of age (series must be completed prior to their 27th birthday). This includes gay, bisexual and trans people who identify as MSM.

MSM are at an increased risk of HPV infection - their risk of persistent HPV infection and genital warts are 3 times higher and the risk of anal cancer is approximately 20 times higher than heterosexual males.

While public health units will be the primary delivery mechanism for this program, the health unit will make this vaccine available by special order to primary care providers as with other special order vaccines (i.e. Hep A and Hep B vaccine).

Gardasil® which protects against four types of HPV - types 6, 11, 16 and 18 (manufactured by Merck Canada), is the vaccine that is currently being publicly funded in Ontario. Gardasil® 9 is not publicly funded at this time.

Depending on age at first dose and medical history, Gardasil® is given either as a 2 or 3 dose series:

- Those starting their series before their 14th birthday who are immunocompetent can receive a 2 dose series using a 0 and 6 month schedule.
- Those starting their series after their 14th birthday, or who are immunocompromised are to receive 3 doses using a 0, 2 and 6 month schedule.

Note: Starting this school year the HPV school immunization program is being expanded to include males in grade 7.

Individuals should **not** get the HPV vaccine if they:

- Have had an anaphylactic reaction to a previous dose of HPV vaccine; or
- Have a severe allergy to any component of the HPV vaccine or its container.

To order this vaccine for your patients, please complete a Special Order Vaccine Order Form, which can be found on our Health Care Portal at www.smdhu.org/pcportal under Immunization - Forms <http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/JFY/PCPortal/PCPCategories/Immunization>

If you have any questions, please contact the Vaccine Preventable Disease Program at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 ext. 8806.