

Gardasil[®]9 Vaccine for September 2017

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

Date: September 21, 2017

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) is now offering the nine-valent Human Papillomavirus vaccine (HPV9 or Gardasil[®]9) as part of the publicly funded immunization program.

School-Based HPV Immunization Program

- Gardasil[®]9 vaccine will be offered to all students in Grade 7 in the 2017/18 school year at school clinics.
- Students who were previously eligible for the school HPV program before the 2017/2018 school year, but did not receive or complete their HPV series, will continue with Gardasil[®]4. This includes:
 - males who were in grade 7 last school year (2004 cohort)
 - females who were in grades 7-12 last school year (1999-2004 cohorts)

High-Risk HPV Immunization Program

- Gardasil[®]9 will be offered to those eligible under the high-risk program for MSM (men who have sex with men) who have not previously received HPV vaccine.
- Those who have already started or completed their HPV vaccine series under this program are not eligible for Gardasil[®]9. Any remaining doses needed in their series will be completed with Gardasil[®]4.

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends that whenever possible, one formulation of HPV vaccine should be used to complete the HPV vaccine series. NACI also states that there is insufficient evidence to recommend re-immunizing with Gardasil[®]9 in individuals who have completed the Gardasil[®]4 series.

The Gardasil[®]9 vaccine protects against the same HPV types as the Gardasil[®]4 vaccine (6, 11, 16 & 18), plus five additional HPV types (31, 33, 45, 52 & 58). Type 16 & 18 continue to cause the majority of cervical cancer in women (70%). The additional five types covered in the Gardasil[®]9 vaccine have been shown to cause an additional 15% to 19% of cervical cancers in females. Only a small percentage of HPV-associated cancers in males are caused by the five additional strains in the HPV9 vaccine.

According to NACI, mild to moderate injection site reactions are more common following receipt Gardasil[®]9 than with Gardasil[®]4. The safety profile of the Gardasil[®]9 vaccine is comparable to the Gardasil[®]4 vaccine. Both HPV vaccines are very safe and effective. Extensive, ongoing monitoring done in Canada and globally continues to show that the HPV vaccines are very safe.

HCPs can special order Gardasil[®]9 for patients who are eligible for the High Risk HPV program (MSM) using the Special Order Form located on our website. Grade 7 students will continue to receive Gardasil[®]9 at school clinics.

If you have any questions regarding the HPV immunization program or school immunization requirements please contact the Vaccine Preventable Disease Program at 705-721-7520 or toll free at 1-877-721-7520 extension 8806.