

# NEEDLE TIPS

from the Immunization Action Coalition — [www.immunize.org](http://www.immunize.org)

## What's Inside

Ask the Experts: CDC immunization experts answer your questions.....	1
CDC and IAC Are Official Partners in Providing VIS Translations .....	2
Vaccine Highlights: Recommendations, Schedules, and More.....	4
Summary of Recommendations for Child/Teen Immunization .....	6
Summary of Recommendations for Adult Immunization.....	10
What If You Don't Immunize Your Child.....	14
CDC Fact Sheets on Vaccine Topics.....	16
IAC's Immunization Resources Order Form .....	18

## New! ACIP recommends routine vaccination of males 11 through 21 years old against human papillomavirus infection

On December 23, 2011, CDC issued updated recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices for vaccinating males with quadrivalent human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV4; Gardasil; Merck). HPV4 is directed against human papillomavirus (HPV) types 6, 11, 16, and 18. One of ACIP's primary goals in recommending that males be vaccinated is to protect them against some anal, penile, and oropharyngeal cancers caused primarily by HPV type 16. Previously, ACIP had recommended permissive use of HPV4 in males age 9–26 years for the prevention of genital warts.

Following are the recommendations published in *MMWR* ([www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6050a3.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6050a3.htm)) for administering HPV4 to males:

- Routinely vaccinate males age 11–12 years with a 3-dose series of HPV4. The series can be started in males as young as age 9.
- Vaccinate males age 13 through 21 if they have not been vaccinated previously or have not completed the 3-dose series.
- Males age 22 through 26 years may be vac-

inated. This means that any male in this age range who wishes to be protected against human papillomavirus may receive the 3-dose series of HPV4 vaccine.

- Routinely vaccinate males through age 26 years if they are immunocompromised as a result of infection (including HIV), disease, or medications and have not been vaccinated previously or have not completed the 3-dose series.
- Routinely vaccinate men who have sex with men (MSM) through age 26 if they have not been vaccinated previously or have not completed the 3-dose series. MSM are at higher risk for infection with HPV types 6, 11, 16, and 18 and associated conditions, including genital warts and anal cancer.

And be sure to continue vaccinating young women with HPV vaccine. HPV vaccine is routinely recommended for young women age 11 through 26 years. According to CDC National Immunization Survey data, only 49% of females 13–17 years have started their HPV series and only 32% have completed the 3-dose series. There is lots of work to do!

## Ask the Experts

IAC extends thanks to our experts, medical epidemiologist Andrew T. Kroger, MD, MPH; nurse educator Donna L. Weaver, RN, MN; medical officer Iyabode Akinsanya-Beysolow, MD, MPH; and medical epidemiologist William L. Atkinson, MD, MPH. All are with the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

### Human papillomavirus (HPV)

Please describe the new recommendations for the use of HPV4 vaccine in males and explain

#### Immunization questions?

- Call the CDC-INFO Contact Center at (800) 232-4636 or (800) CDC-INFO
- Email [nipinfo@cdc.gov](mailto:nipinfo@cdc.gov)
- Call your state health dept. (phone numbers at [www.immunize.org/coordinators](http://www.immunize.org/coordinators))

#### how these new recommendations differ from the previous ones.

ACIP recommends routine vaccination of males age 11–12 years with HPV4 (Gardasil, Merck) administered as a 3-dose series. The vaccination series can be started beginning at age 9 years. Vaccination with HPV4 is recommended for males age 13 through 21 years who have not been vaccinated previously or who have not completed the 3-dose series. Males age 22 through 26 years may be vaccinated with HPV4.

ACIP recommends that immunocompromised males who have not been vaccinated previously or who have not completed the 3-dose series receive routine vaccination with HPV4 through age 26 years.

Men who have sex with men (MSM) are at higher risk for infection with HPV types 6, 11, 16, and 18 and associated conditions, including genital warts and anal cancer. ACIP recommends that MSM who have not been vaccinated previously or who have not completed the 3-dose series receive routine vaccination with HPV4 through age 26 years.

Previously, ACIP had issued permissive recommendations for HPV4 use in males age 9–26 years for the prevention of genital warts.

To obtain a copy of the new recommendations, which were published in *MMWR* in Dec-

ember 2011, see [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6050a3.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6050a3.htm).

#### Is it recommended that patients age 26 years start the HPV vaccination series even though they will be older than 26 when they complete it?

Yes. HPV vaccine is recommended for all women through age 26 years and also may be given to men through that age. So, the 3-dose series can be started at age 26 even if it will not be completed at age 26. The series should be completed regardless of the age of the patient (i.e., even if the patient is older than 26). In certain situations, some clinicians

(continued on page 5)

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