

NEEDLE TIPS

from the Immunization Action Coalition — www.immunize.org

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HPV Vaccination: How Can We Do Better?

Recently released data on vaccination coverage of teen girls and boys age 13–17 shows the rate of HPV vaccination lags way behind rates of Tdap and meningococcal conjugate (MCV4) vaccination. Since 2006–07, when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended the three vaccines for use in adolescents, coverage with Tdap and MCV4 has increased steadily. But HPV coverage has plateaued. Vaccination coverage of teens in 2011 for the three vaccines follows:

- Coverage with 1 or more doses of Tdap vaccine was 78.2%.
- Coverage with 1 or more doses of MCV4 was 70.5%.
- Coverage with 1 or more doses of HPV among teenage girls was 53.0%, and coverage with 3 or more doses was 34.8%.

Cervical Cancer Prevention

Annually in the United States, 12,000 new cases of cervical cancer are diagnosed and 4000 cervical cancer deaths occur. HPV vaccine, which prevents infections that cause about 70% of cervical cancers, holds the prospect of being an incredible cancer-prevention tool for an entire generation of women. Tragically, that prospect is not now being fully realized—but healthcare professionals have the opportunity to turn the tide.

An article in the September 2012 issue of *AAP News* states that a “pediatrician’s strong recommendation is the key to helping parents with their decision” to vaccinate their child with HPV vaccine and that “if a dose of HPV vaccine were

administered each time a clinician gave Tdap or MCV4, coverage could jump to more than 80%.”

In a recent letter addressed to CDC grantees and partners, Dr. Anne Schuchat, director, CDC’s National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, outlines a call to action that involves promoting HPV vaccination to physician audiences, immunization providers, and parents of preteen and teen girls and boys. To that end, CDC has developed several new HPV resources, as have other respected partner organizations. A selection of them follows.

HPV Resources

- CDC’s HPV web section: www.cdc.gov/hpv
- 19-minute Medscape video, “HPV Vaccine: A Shot of Cancer Prevention,” Anne Schuchat, MD; Lauri E. Markowitz, MD; Mona Saraiya, MD, MPH. Released: 08/10/2012; valid for credit through 08/10/2013: www.medscape.org/viewarticle/768633
- CDC parent education sheet: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/hpv/downloads/dis-HPV-color-office.pdf
- IAC’s HPV web section: www.immunize.org/resources/dis_hpv.asp
- IAC’s HPV video collection: www.immunize.org/votw/hpv-videos.asp
- Four videos for parents on Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia’s HPV web section: www.chop.edu/service/vaccine-education-center/prevent-hpv/index.html
- Heather’s story: www.youtube.com/user/immunizationaction

Ask the Experts

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

Immunization questions?

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

Influenza vaccine

Which children younger than age 9 years will need 2 doses of influenza vaccine in the 2012–13 influenza season?

Children age 6 months through 8 years should receive a second dose 4 weeks or more after the first dose if they (1) are receiving influenza vaccine for the first time or (2) did not get at least 2 doses of seasonal influenza vaccine since July 1, 2010.

CDC has developed the following alternative approach that healthcare providers can use for children who have well-documented histories (e.g., maintained in electronic registries) of influenza vaccination. Children age 6 months through 8 years need only 1 dose of vaccine in 2012–13 if they have received any of the following: (1) 2 or more doses of seasonal influenza vaccine since July 1, 2010; (2) at least 2 doses of seasonal vaccine before July 1, 2010, and at least 1 dose of monovalent 2009

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