Updates to VFA HPV Vaccine Policy

March 31, 2021

TO: California Vaccines for Adults (VFA) Providers
FROM: Robert Schechter, M.D., MSc., Chief Center for Infectious Diseases
Division of Communicable Disease Control, Immunization Branch
SUBJECT: Updates to VFA HPV Vaccine Policy

Dear VFA Provider,

In September 2019, CDPH issued a letter detailing updated federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations for Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination and prioritization for the use of VFA doses of HPV vaccine.

The ACIP recommends catch-up HPV vaccination for all persons through age 26 years. Please continue to prioritize usage of VFA doses of HPV vaccine to increase immunization rates in men and women through the age of 26 years.

For adults aged 27 through 45 years who are not adequately vaccinated, clinicians can consider discussing HPV vaccination with persons who are most likely to benefit. HPV vaccination does not need to be discussed with most adults over age 26. When considering HPV immunization for adults 27-45 years of age, please take into account the following factors to assist with your shared clinical decision-making:

- At any age, having a new sex partner is a risk factor for acquiring a new HPV infection.
- Persons who are in a long-term, mutually monogamous sexual partnership are not likely to acquire a new HPV infection.
- Most sexually active adults have been exposed to some HPV types, although not necessarily all of the HPV types targeted by vaccination.
- HPV vaccine efficacy is high among persons who have not been exposed to vaccine-type HPV before vaccination.
- Vaccine effectiveness might be low among persons with risk factors for HPV infection or disease (e.g., adults with multiple lifetime sex partners and likely previous infection with vaccine-type HPV), as well as among persons with certain immunocompromising conditions.
HPV vaccines are prophylactic (i.e., they prevent new HPV infections). They do not prevent progression of HPV infection to disease, decrease time to clearance of HPV infection, or treat HPV-related disease.

To better align the VFA program with ACIP recommendations, VFA-eligible adults ages 27 through 45 years who are determined to be at risk for new HPV infection through a shared clinical decision-making process may receive VFA doses of HPV vaccine.

Resources

- 2019 HPV Recommendations and VFA Prioritization Letter
- MMWR: Updated ACIP HPV Recommendations (CDC)
- VFA Program Eligibility Based on Insurance Status
- HPV Vaccine Fact Sheet