



SUSAN FANELLI
Acting Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

September 23, 2019

IZB-FY-18-19-3

TO: Vaccines for Adults (VFA) Providers

FROM: Sarah Royce, M.D., M.P.H., Chief, Immunization Branch *S Royce*

SUBJECT: Updated Recommendations for Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination and Prioritization

UPDATED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HPV VACCINE

In June 2019, the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to recommend **catch-up HPV vaccination for all persons through age 26 years, harmonizing the recommendation for men and women.**

In October 2018, the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) extended the age range for the use of 9-valent HPV vaccine (Gardasil 9[®]) to include women and men from 27 to 45 years of age. **ACIP does not recommend routine catch-up vaccination for all adults aged 27 through 45 years, because vaccination would be expected to offer marginal health benefits.**

Instead, clinicians can consider discussing HPV vaccination with adults aged 27 through 45 who are most likely to benefit, in a process of shared clinical decision-making.¹ Providers should consider the following when making decisions regarding HPV vaccination:

- **HPV vaccination is most effective before exposure to HPV through sexual activity.** Ideally, HPV vaccination should occur in early adolescence, but there is additional benefit through young adulthood. **Prioritize persons through 26 years of age for HPV catch-up vaccination.**
- **HPV vaccination does not need to be discussed with most adults aged > 26 years.** For patients aged 27 through 45 years of age, consider whether your patient is likely to benefit from vaccination. Factors to consider include:
 - Having a new sexual partner is a risk factor at any age for acquiring a new HPV infection.

¹ For more information regarding the new HPV vaccine recommendations, including a detailed framework for shared clinical decision-making, see the August 2019 MMWR: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/68/wr/mm6832a3.htm>.



- Vaccine effectiveness might be low among persons with risk factors for HPV infection (such as having had multiple sex partners during one's lifetime).
- HPV vaccines prevent new HPV infections. They do not prevent progression of HPV infection to disease.

ORDERING - LIMITED VFA VACCINE FUNDING HAS NOT INCREASED

VFA clinics are requested to target their use of VFA supplies of HPV vaccine to increase immunization rates in men and women through the age of 26 years. There has been no increase in limited VFA vaccine funding. Given the new recommendation for immunization of males through age 26 years, the VFA program will allow a modest increase in orders of HPV vaccine based on the size of past orders.

We encourage you to utilize Merck's Patient Assistance Program for eligible patients to supplement your limited supply of VFA vaccine. To learn more, visit: <https://www.merckhelps.com/GARDASIL%209>.

Other updates

In June 2019, ACIP also voted to recommend:

- Hepatitis A vaccine for all HIV-positive adults.
- Instead of routine immunization, basing immunization with 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (Prevnar®; PCV13) for adults aged 65 or older on shared clinical decision-making.

Once these new recommendations are finalized and published, the VFA program will share information regarding their implementation.

RESOURCES

HPV [Vaccine Fact Sheet](#)