

August 2015

Re: Expanded Eligibility for Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination

Dear Health Care Provider,

On September 1st 2015, BC will launch a publicly funded, targeted HPV vaccine program using quadrivalent HPV vaccine (GARDASIL®) for boys and young men who are at a higher risk of contracting the virus. The program aims to provide protection to those who are most vulnerable to HPV infection and related disease and who are unlikely to be protected through indirect protection (female vaccination). Those eligible for free HPV vaccine through this program expansion include the following:

- Males 9 to 26 years of age at the time of series commencement (inclusive) who are:
 - Men who have sex with men (MSM) including those who may not yet be sexually active and are questioning their sexual orientation
 - Street involved
 - HIV positive
- Males 9 to 18 years of age (inclusive) in the care of the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD)
- Males 12 to 17 years of age (inclusive) in youth custody services centres

This program complements BC's publicly funded HPV vaccine program for Grade 6 girls and a publicly funded time-limited catch up program for young women up to age 26. Targeted male vaccination is likely to be cost effective based on published analyses. In contrast, analyses of routine male vaccination suggest that it is not cost effective when female vaccination rates are over 50% as immunization of girls and young women provides indirect protection to heterosexual males. About 66% of Grade 6 BC girls completed the HPV vaccine series in 2014 and efforts at improving uptake are ongoing.

The success of this program depends on providers like you promoting and administering the vaccine to eligible males. Your recommendation to vaccinate is a strong predictor of vaccine uptake.

For questions about the rollout of the new HPV program for males at higher risk of infection, please contact your local public health unit within your respective health authority.

For more information please refer to the following resources:

BC Ministry of Health's press release:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/stories/hpv-immunization-program-expanded-to-vulnerable-boys>

BCCDC's Q&A for HCPs: Expanded Eligibility for Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination for Select Male Populations:

http://www.bccdc.ca/NR/rdonlyres/4D3B906F-067C-43DE-B856-EDE3080E7D9C/0/HPV_QA_FINAL_Aug19.pdf

The BC Immunization Manual:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/dis-cond/comm-manual/CDManualChap2.htm>

Section VII, Product Page for GARDASIL®, will be updated shortly to reflect the expanded eligibility.