

Howard Clement
Head of Quality in Primary and Community Providers
West Sussex PCT
Bramber Building
9 College Lane
CHICHESTER
PO19 6FX
Tel: 01243 815315

To General Practitioners

5th June 2008

Dear Colleague,

HPV Vaccine

HPV vaccination programme

You will have received information from the CMO regarding the human papilloma virus (HPV) immunisation programme

<http://www.immunisation.nhs.uk/publications/CMO020508.pdf>.

It is planned to introduce a programme within the PCT from September 2008.

HPV vaccine will be introduced for girls aged 12 -13 years (school year eight) from autumn, and thereafter. A catch up programme will start in autumn 2009 and will run for two years.

- Girls aged 16 to 18 years (school years 12 & 13) will be offered the vaccine from autumn 2009
- Girls aged 15 to 17 years (school years 11 & 12) will be offered the vaccine from autumn 2010

By the end of this catch up campaign all girls under 18 years of age will have been offered the HPV vaccine.

The recommendation from the DH and the Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) is for a school based programme and this is endorsed within the CMO letter (2.5.08) link above. West Sussex PCT has agreed to implement the Year 8 cohort via a school based programme and the School Nurse service is being commissioned to undertake this work. This decision was reached following discussion at the Immunisation Committee, Cancer Programme Board and the LES Committee. The preferred option for the catch up programme has not been reached and we are awaiting further guidelines from the DH.

All girls in Year 8 will be included irrespective of place of education. If you have any parents or girls within these cohorts requesting the vaccine please inform them of our plans and that information will be provided to them via their school. You will be provided with details of who has been vaccinated for your records.

The vaccine for this programme will be supplied through the national childhood vaccination delivery process to agreed points within West Sussex.

The JCVI have stated that vaccination of all women above the recommended age groups would not be cost-effective in preventing cervical cancer. This is because as soon as a woman has become sexually active, she is at risk of infection with the virus. However women not covered by the vaccination programme will still be invited to be screened routinely as part of the national cervical screening programme.

A new chapter on HPV is now available within the Green Book http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Healthprotection/Immunisation/Greenbook/DH_4097254

Use of vaccine outside the national programme

Prior to implementation of the national HPV vaccination programme in September 2008 and in groups that fall outside the recommended ages for the routine programme, GPs may **exceptionally** prescribe the vaccine if the clinical circumstances of a patient warrant such action. If the practice initiates treatment it is the responsibility of the practice to complete the course.

Products and costs

There are two licensed HPV vaccines available Gardasil and Cervarix. Three doses of the HPV vaccine over a six month period are needed for protection. The two vaccines are slightly different and have slightly different dosing schedules. The cost of a complete course is about £240.

There is **no additional payment** for undertaking the immunisation in this case. The vaccine cost will be attributed to your practice prescribing budget in the usual way. Please note you are not able to charge for a private prescription or administration of the vaccine to your own NHS patient in this scenario. The patient can be referred to an alternative provider (e.g. another GP practice as a private patient.)

The links to the manufacturers' summary of product characteristics are

- Gardasil
<http://emc.medicines.org.uk/emc/industry/default.asp?page=displaydoc.asp&documentid=19016>
- Cervarix.
<http://emc.medicines.org.uk/emc/assets/c/html/DisplayDoc.asp?DocumentID=20204>

A section specifically on HPV is now available on the immunisation website:

<http://www.immunisation.nhs.uk/Vaccines/HPV/HPV>

This is based on current information available from the Department of Health and may be subject to change both nationally and locally.

If you have further questions, please contact David Phizackerley, Head of Medicines Management (david.phizackerley@wsx-pct.nhs.uk) or Howard Clement, Head of Quality in Primary and Community Providers including Immunisation Coordinator role (howard.clement@wsx-pct.nhs.uk)

Yours sincerely

Howard Clement
Head of Quality in Primary and Community Providers
West Sussex Immunisation Coordinator