



Australian Government
Department of Health

Chief Medical Officer

**Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine *Gardasil*® 9
on the National Immunisation Program**

- From January 2018, the 9-valent HPV vaccine *Gardasil*®9 (in an age dependent two dose schedule) replaces the 4-valent HPV vaccine (*Gardasil*®), on the National Immunisation Program.
- Individuals aged approximately 12 to 13 years will be offered *Gardasil*®9 through school based vaccination programs.
- The role you play is important. You help ensure good vaccine coverage across Australia, including administering doses missed at school and educating parents about the benefits of the HPV vaccine.

Dear Colleague

I am writing to inform you that from January 2018, the 9-valent HPV vaccine *Gardasil*®9 (two dose schedule) will replace the 4-valent HPV *Gardasil*® (three dose schedule), on the National Immunisation Program (NIP).

The HPV vaccine is primarily delivered through school-based vaccination programs to adolescent females and males in Years 7 or 8 (aged approximately 12 to 13 years) depending on your state or territory as part of the NIP. However you may see patients presenting in your clinic for vaccination, to receive missed or additional doses as well as parents seeking further information about HPV vaccination.

Gardasil® 9 is given in a two dose schedule for those aged 14 years and under at the time of first dose, at 0 and then 6-12 months after initial vaccination. It helps protect females and males against genital warts and cervical, vaginal, vulvar and anal, penile and throat cancers. *Gardasil*®9 includes the HPV types covered by *Gardasil* (6, 11, 16 and 18) plus an additional five types (31, 33, 45, 52 and 58).

To support GPs with the introduction of *Gardasil*®9, enclosed is a clinical factsheet which provides information on:

- administration of *Gardasil*®9 in a two dose schedule;
- recommendations for immunocompromised individuals;
- recommendations for individuals aged 15 years or more;

- recommendations for individuals who have started a course with a different HPV vaccine; and
- notifying doses given to the HPV Register.

Of note, all young people up to the age of 19 years can receive catch-up HPV vaccination through the ongoing free NIP catch-up program. Please take any opportunity to offer these adolescents any catch up vaccines they require. It is important to be aware that while individuals commencing their *Gardasil*®9 vaccination schedule before turning 15 years of age only require two doses, those who commence their schedule after turning 15 years of age require three doses. The third dose is not funded through the NIP and therefore we are encouraging parents and vaccination providers to support timely completion of the two dose schedule when adolescents are 12-13 years old.

Three doses are also required where an individual has a specific immunosuppressive condition- these are outlined in the GP clinical factsheet. For individuals aged 14 years or less, all three doses are funded through the NIP.

Please find enclosed a poster, as well as a brochure that you may find useful in discussing HPV vaccination with your patients.

Gardasil®9 vaccine can be ordered through the same process you currently use to order vaccines for the NIP. States and territories will advise when the vaccine is available to order.

HPV doses administered should be recorded in practice management software and reported to the HPV Register. Information on notifying to the HPV Register can be found at: www.hpvregister.org.au/health-professionals/how-to-notify-hpv-doses.

Information on the move to reporting HPV doses to the Australian Immunisation Register will be provided later this year.

As we are introducing a new vaccine into the NIP, we will be carefully monitoring its use and safety. Please support these efforts by reporting any adverse events you become aware of to the TGA or your state or territory health department.

Please share this information with others in your practice, including locums, who administer or prescribe vaccines.

Thank you for your continued support of the NIP.

Yours sincerely



Professor Brendan Murphy
Chief Medical Officer
19 February 2018