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**TO:** North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) Participants

**FROM:** Beth Rowe-West, R.N., B.S.N., Head  
Immunization Branch

**SUBJECT:** Availability of Bivalent Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (HPV), Cervarix®

The purpose of this memo is to announce the availability of an additional human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV) product, the bivalent vaccine, Cervarix®. Effective May 1, 2010, NCIP providers may choose to order Cervarix® for their Vaccines for Children (VFC)-eligible female patients who are 9 through 18 years of age. The NCIP will continue to offer the quadrivalent HPV vaccine, Gardasil®, for VFC eligible males and females 9 through 18 years of age. The CPT® code for quadrivalent HPV vaccine (Gardasil®) is 90649, and for bivalent HPV vaccine (Cervarix®) is 90650.

As a reminder, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends:

- 1) Quadrivalent HPV (types 6, 11, 16 and 18) vaccine (Gardasil®) for females 9 through 26 years of age for prevention of cervical cancers and pre-cancers, and genital warts; and for males 9 through 26 years of age to reduce the likelihood of their acquiring genital warts.
- 2) Bivalent HPV (types 16 and 18) vaccine (Cervarix®) for females 9 through 26 years of age for the prevention of cervical cancers and pre-cancers.

**Note:** Although both of these vaccines are recommended for 9 through 26 years of age, the VFC eligibility range is 9 through 18 years of age. **Only patients 9 through 18 years of age who meet one or more of the following VFC criteria may be administered state-supplied HPV vaccine:**

- Medicaid-eligible
- American Indian/Alaskan Native
- Uninsured
- Underinsured\*

\*A child who has commercial (private) health insurance but the coverage does not include vaccines, a child whose insurance covers only selected vaccines (VFC-eligible for non-covered vaccines only), or a child whose insurance caps vaccine coverage at a certain amount. Once that coverage amount is reached, the child is categorized as underinsured.

For additional information on HPV vaccines, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) web site offers a variety of resources. These include:

- the provisional HPV recommendations at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/provisional/downloads/hpv-vac-dec2009-508.pdf>
- the Frequently Asked Questions for HPV at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/hpv/vac-faqs.htm>
- Vaccine Information Statements (VISs) for these two products at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm>

The North Carolina Immunization Registry (NCIR) was recently updated to include Cervarix®. Providers not using the NCIR should document doses administered on Vaccines Administered Logs (VALs).

Additional questions about HPV vaccines may be addressed by contacting your regional immunization nurse, or the Immunization Branch Help Desk, at 1-877-873-6247.

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