

December 9, 2016

MEMORANDUM,

TO: North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) Participants

FROM: Wendy Holmes, RN, Head *WH*
Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: Updated Human Papillomavirus Virus (HPV) Vaccine Schedule

The purpose of this memo is to inform you of the recent changes to the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) dosing schedule. On Wednesday, October 19, 2016, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommended that all 11 to 12-year-olds receive two doses of HPV vaccine at least five months apart rather than the previously recommended three doses to protect against cancers caused by human papillomavirus (HPV) infections. Teens and young adults who start the series later, at ages 15 through 26 years, will continue to need three doses of HPV vaccine to protect against cancer-causing HPV infection. This recommendation makes it easier for parents to protect their children against cancers caused by HPV infections by reducing the number of shots and trips to the doctor.

A summary of the HPV recommendation changes are listed below:

- Routine HPV vaccination continues to be recommended at age 11-12 years, but may be given starting at 9 years of age through 14 years.
- Use a 2-dose HPV schedule (0, 6-12 months) for adolescents starting the HPV series at 9-14 years of age. The minimum interval for the two-dose schedule is **5 months**.
- Adolescents aged 9 through 14 years who have already received two doses of HPV vaccine less than 5 months apart, will require a third dose.
- Continue to use the 3-dose schedule (0, 1-2, 6 months) for those who are:
 - Starting the series at ages 15-26 years, or
 - Immunocompromised, regardless of age
- There is no maximum interval between doses. The first dose does not have to be repeated if given more than 12 months before the second dose. If the vaccine schedule is interrupted, the series **does not** need to be restarted.
- CDC and NC Immunization Branch are working to update materials, guidance, and tools to reflect the change in recommendation. This includes the North Carolina Immunization Registry (NCIR) which predicts vaccines a patient needs based on the current published recommendation for a three dose HPV schedule.
- Persons who initiated vaccination with 9vHPV (Gardasil-9®), 4vHPV (Gardasil®), or 2vHPV (Cervarix®) before the 15th birthday, and received 2 doses at the recommended dosing

schedule, or 3 doses at the recommended dosing schedule, are considered adequately vaccinated.

- As a reminder, HPV vaccine supplied by the NCIP is available for children and adolescents through 18 years of age.

What your office can do!

- ✓ Implement the new recommendation with patients now, even if they've already received their first dose of HPV vaccine.
- ✓ Train other staff on the new recommendation. Post "CDC Immunization Services Division FAQs about the new HPV Vaccine Recommendations by Awardees and Providers", go to: http://immunize.nc.gov/providers/ncip/pdf/hpv_recommendations.pdf to view them.
- ✓ Adjust the number of doses of HPV vaccine you order to reflect this change.

CC: SMT Regional Immunization Staff Central Office Staff Vaccine Manufacturers
 Lisa Weeks Peter Graber Terri Pennington Elizabeth Hudgins
 Frank Skwara Jason Swartz Taryn Edwards Gregg Griggs