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To: New Jersey Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Providers

From: New Jersey Vaccines for Children Program

Subject: Availability of 9-valent HPV vaccine (Gardasil 9®)

Date: June 22, 2015

On February 26, 2015, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended that the 9-valent HPV vaccine (Gardasil 9®) be included as one of three vaccines that can be used for routine vaccination of females and males in the United States.

The New Jersey Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program is pleased to announce the availability of this 9-valent HPV vaccine and will be filling all future orders for Gardasil with the 9-valent product.

All three HPV vaccines protect against HPV types 16 and 18, the types that cause the majority of HPV-associated cancers. The quadrivalent and 9-valent vaccines also protect against HPV types 6 and 11, the types that cause the majority of genital warts. The 9-valent vaccine protects against the same four HPV types in the quadrivalent vaccine and five additional types. These additional types cause about 10% of HPV-associated cancers, including about 15% of cervical cancers.

ACIP recommends routine HPV vaccination of girls and boys aged 11 and 12 years. ACIP also recommends vaccination of females aged 13 through 26, and males aged 13 through 21 years who have not been vaccinated previously or who have not completed the HPV vaccine series.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Can the 9-valent vaccine be administered to male patients?**

Yes. ACIP recommends that routine vaccination with the 9-valent HPV vaccine (as with the quadrivalent vaccine) be initiated at age 11 or 12 years. Vaccination is recommended for males aged 13 through 21 years who have not been vaccinated previously or who have not completed the 3-dose series. Males aged 22 through 26 years may be vaccinated. Vaccination is also recommended through age 26 years for men who have sex with men and for immunocompromised persons (including those with HIV infection) if not vaccinated previously. However, any VFC-funded vaccine may only be administered to patients under the age of 19 years old. The 9-valent HPV vaccine is currently unavailable on the 317/Adult contract.

**Can I complete a HPV series using the 9-valent vaccine if I started the series using the quadrivalent vaccine?**

Yes, the 9-valent vaccine may be used to continue or complete the series.

**Can I order the 9-valent vaccine if I still have the quadrivalent product in stock?**

Yes, the 9-valent vaccine will be available for ordering regardless of the amount of quadrivalent vaccine that is currently in stock at your office. Alternatively, you can continue to use the stock of quadrivalent vaccine you have available in your office. Any remaining quadrivalent vaccine that your office does not plan to use should be reported using the IMM-39 Vaccine Return Voucher and returned to McKesson upon receipt of the waste return label.

**What about the safety of the 9-valent vaccine?**

In the prelicensure studies, the 9-valent vaccine was studied in more than 15,000 females and males. In some studies, the 9-valent vaccine was compared to the quadrivalent vaccine. The 9-valent vaccine caused slightly more reactions – primarily swelling and redness-where the injection was given. As with the quadrivalent vaccine, side effects were generally mild. The benefits of HPV vaccination far outweigh any potential risks for side effects from the vaccine.

**Should I delay vaccination until I receive the 9-valent vaccine?**

No. The ACIP recommends that those who are eligible for vaccination start the HPV vaccine series with whatever vaccine is available from their healthcare professional.

**Should I give the 9-valent HPV vaccine to people who have already completed an HPV vaccination series?**

This question has not been addressed by the ACIP at this time.

For more information about 9-valent HPV, please see the ACIP recommendation published in the [MMWR](#). If you have any questions regarding this notice, call VFC Customer Service at 609-826-4862.