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24 February 2022

Changing to a 2 dose NHS HPV vaccination schedule for eligible adolescents and adults starting the course after they turn 15 years old, including men who have sex with men (MSM)

Dear Colleague,

This letter provides information about a change to the national NHS Universal HPV vaccination programme from 1 April 2022, when those eligible adolescents and adults who start the course on or after they turn 15 years old, will require 2 doses of HPV vaccine at least 6 months apart, instead of 3 doses, to complete the course. The same applies to anyone receiving the vaccine through the NHS MSM HPV vaccination programme. This is based on advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

This letter is aimed at health professionals who are responsible for commissioning and operationally delivering the national NHS Universal HPV vaccination programme and the NHS MSM HPV vaccination programme. We encourage you to share this guidance with all those involved in delivering the programme in your area.

Key points about the change to the programme:

- from 1 April 2022, those individuals who would have been eligible to receive 3 doses of HPV vaccine (ie eligible MSM, and those aged from 15 to 25 years of age who are completely unvaccinated and remain eligible under the adolescent programme), will only require 2 doses at least 6 months apart to be fully vaccinated
- a 3 dose schedule should still be offered to individuals who are known to be HIV-infected, including those on antiretroviral therapy, or are known to be immunocompromised at the time of vaccination
- individuals who start the NHS HPV vaccination programme prior to April 2022 should continue on the planned 3 dose schedule. Those who commence prior to April 2022 whose schedule is interrupted/delayed such that they had an interval of 6 months or more between their first and second dose only need a 2 dose schedule (do not require a third dose)
- as set out in our [previous letter](#), the vaccine for both groups eligible for the national NHS HPV Vaccination programme is changing from Gardasil® to Gardasil® 9 during 2022 with more information to follow.
- there is no change to the eligibility criteria for the programme

Information provided in the annexes of this letter:

Annexe A - detailed information and guidance for healthcare professionals

Annexe B - vaccine coverage data collection

Annexe C - vaccination records and data capture

Annexe D - supporting programme resources

If you have any further queries, in the first instance please contact your NHSEI Regional S7a Public Health Commissioning Team or email immunisation@phe.gov.uk.

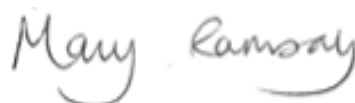
We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in commissioning and operationally delivering the national NHS Universal HPV vaccination programme and the NHS MSM HPV vaccination programme.

Yours faithfully,



Deborah Tomalin

Director of Public Health Commissioning and Operations
NHS England and NHS Improvement



Dr Mary Ramsay

Director of Public Health Programmes
(including Immunisation)
UK Health Security Agency

Annexe A - detailed information and guidance for healthcare professionals

This guidance is based on advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) the UK's independent advisory committee of immunisation experts. In [May 2020](#), the JCVI HPV sub-committee agreed that the schedule for those aged over 15 years should change from 3 doses to 2 doses given at least 6 months apart. Based on this, the JCVI main committee advised the move to a 2 dose schedule at least 6 months apart, for both those aged 15 years and over and MSM.

The JCVI also advised (in June 2021) that the 3 dose schedule should continue to be offered to individuals who are known to be HIV-infected, including those on antiretroviral therapy, or are known to be immunocompromised at the time of immunisation.

Timing

From 1 April 2022, those individuals who would have been eligible to receive 3 doses (ie eligible MSM, and those aged from 15 to 25 years of age who remain eligible under the NHS universal adolescent programme), will only require 2 doses, at least 6 months apart, to be fully vaccinated. Individuals who start the NHS HPV vaccination programme prior to April 2022 should continue on the planned 3 dose schedule. Those who commence prior to April 2022 whose schedule is interrupted/delayed such that they had an interval of 6 months or more between their first and second dose only need a 2 dose schedule (do not require a third dose).

Vaccine supply

UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) will continue to supply vaccine for the national NHS HPV vaccination programmes in the usual way. Please consider the schedule change when placing orders for HPV vaccine, and make sure that locally held stocks of vaccine are rotated in fridges so that wastage is minimised. Vaccine for uses not covered by the routine NHS schedule should be procured locally.

Patient Group Directions (PGDs)

An updated HPV PGD and HPV (MSM) PGD template will be produced by UKHSA for NHS England and NHS Improvement areas to authorise for their commissioned services. These will be available from the [PGD collection](#) on GOV.UK.

Information and guidance for healthcare professionals and patients

Detailed clinical guidance on HPV vaccination is contained in [chapter 18a](#) of Immunisation Against Infectious Disease (the Green Book). Please note a revised HPV chapter will be published in due course to reflect those changes to the programme.

Healthcare professional information and guidance to support the HPV programme including a training slide set will be updated to reflect the above change and become available on the [HPV vaccination programme webpage](#).

Updated patient information materials will be available on the [HPV vaccination programme webpage](#) and [HPV vaccination programme for MSM webpage](#) and to order from the [Health Publications website](#).

See **Annexe D** for further details on programme information resources to support the change.

Annexe B - vaccine coverage data collection

This change will not impact on the vaccine coverage collection for the school-based adolescent HPV vaccination programme in any way.

NHS MSM HPV vaccination programme - vaccine coverage collection

HPV vaccination uptake collections for the NHS MSM HPV vaccination programme will not be significantly impacted by the change announced in this letter.

Vaccine coverage (uptake and completion) will continue to be evaluated for MSM aged up to and including 45 years attending specialist sexual health services (SHSs) and HIV clinics.

HPV vaccination data for MSM is entered for all attendances via the GUMCAD and HARS mandatory reporting systems for SHSs and HIV clinics, respectively. GUMCAD and HARS clinical guidance will be updated to clearly indicate the change to a 2 dose schedule (with the exception of immunocompromised and HIV positive MSM). This will include guidance stating Sexual Health and HIV Activity Property Type (SHHAPT) coding for vaccination course completion should be recorded after dose 2 is administered for those receiving a first dose from 1 April 2022. Individuals who start the NHS HPV vaccination programme prior to April 2022 should continue on the planned 3 dose schedule and the guidance will reflect that for these individuals, completion will only be recorded after dose 3 is administered.

In the case of immunocompromised and HIV positive MSM, completion will only be recorded after dose 3 is administered and this will be reflected in the clinical guidance, as these individuals will remain on a 3 dose schedule.

[Annual reports of HPV vaccination uptake in MSM](#) are available on GOV.UK.

Annexe C – vaccination records and data capture

Accurate recording of all vaccines given, and good management of all associated documentation, is essential as per the standards set out in the core service specifications, Statement of Financial Entitlement (SFE) and contracts.

The Provider must ensure that information on vaccines administered, including the product name of the vaccine administered, ie Gardasil 4 or 9 is submitted directly to the Registered General Practitioner and any relevant population vaccination registers, in most areas this is the Child Health Information Service (CHIS).

Following a vaccination session/clinic or individual vaccination, local arrangements should be made for the transfer of data onto the relevant CHIS. Where possible this should aim to be within 2 working days.

Arrangements will also be required to inform neighbouring areas when children resident in their area are immunised outside their local area.

Annexe D – supporting programme resources

Universal HPV programme (HPV for all)

Health professional guidance

[HPV vaccination guidance for healthcare practitioners](#)

[HPV universal factsheet for health professionals](#)

[HPV cervical cancer factsheet](#)

Patient facing resources

Universal HPV leaflet is available in:

[English](#), [Albanian](#), [Arabic](#), [Bengali](#), [Brazilian Portuguese](#), [Bulgarian](#), [Chinese](#), [Estonian](#), [Farsi](#), [Greek](#), [Gujarati](#), [Hindi](#), [Latvian](#), [Lithuanian](#), [Panjabi](#), [Polish](#), [Romanian](#), [Romany](#), [Russian](#), [Somali](#), [Spanish](#), [Turkish](#), [Twi](#), [Ukrainian](#), [Urdu](#) and [Yiddish](#).

British Sign Language (BSL) video of this leaflet

[HPV leaflet BSL](#)

This BSL video is available to [download](#) here or to [watch](#) or signpost to.

[HPV universal vaccination record card – 2 dose schedule](#)

[HPV universal vaccination poster](#)

HPV for MSM programme

Health professional guidance

[HPV vaccination guidance for healthcare practitioners](#)

Patient facing resources

[HPV for MSM leaflet](#)

[HPV for MSM poster](#)

[HPV for MSM record card – 2 dose schedule](#)