

## Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine Update

The latest HPV vaccine on the market helps protect against 9 different strains of the Human Papillomavirus. **Gardasil 9** protects against HPV types 6, 11, 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52, and 58. Most HPV cancers (74%) can be prevented with the vaccine and it is also estimated that the vaccine will prevent 90% of anogenital warts caused by HPV viruses.<sup>1</sup>

Prior to the FDA approval of Gardasil 9, MERCK produced a quadravalent HPV vaccine trademark named **Gardasil** which protects against HPV types 6, 11, 16 and 18, and prevents 64% of HPV-associated cancers and 90% of anogenital warts.<sup>1</sup> The quadravalent vaccine by MERCK is still available. Therefore, **parents who would prefer to have the broader coverage of Gardasil 9 should inquire about the vaccine their provider is using.**

Another change lies in the administration of the HPV vaccines. Children or teens **under the age of fifteen** may receive the HPV vaccine in **two doses** rather than three. The interval between the two injections must be at least 6 months. The decision is the result of clinical trials showing that younger adolescents (aged 9-14 years) produced immune responses with two doses of the vaccine similar to older adolescents receiving 3 doses.<sup>2</sup>

The American College of Pediatricians is a pro-vaccine organization that supports offering HPV vaccination at adolescent well-child visits. However, the College does not endorse mandatory HPV vaccination for school attendance because infection is acquired solely through sexual activity. **All adolescents, including those who receive the HPV vaccine, must be warned of the many mental, physical and social health risks associated with adolescent sexual activity which are not eliminated by the HPV vaccine. Delaying sexual debut among youth until marriage can be achieved through education and in cooperation with parents. In recent years, an increasing number of teens have demonstrated both the desire and ability to commit to sexual abstinence. Physicians must promote the primary public health principle of sexual risk avoidance over the secondary principle of risk reduction because risk avoidance yields optimal health outcomes for youth.** Additional information may be found in the College's statement: [Human Papillomavirus Vaccination](#) and also on the College's [Sexual Risk Avoidance page](#).

### References:

1. CDC, "Provider Information: Gardasil 9 VIS" <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/hpv-gardasil-9-hcp-info.pdf>
2. CDC, "CDC Recommends only two HPV shots for younger adolescents", CDC Newsroom [http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2016/p1020-hpv-shots.html?s\\_cid=govD\\_HP\\_V-10-20-16\\_01](http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2016/p1020-hpv-shots.html?s_cid=govD_HP_V-10-20-16_01)