CALIFORNIA HPV VACCINATION ROUNDTABLE
Working to prevent HPV cancers

Content for Provider Newsletters/ Provider Outreach about AB 659

Content produced by the California HPV Vaccination Roundtable. Stakeholders are free to use all or a portion of the content below for provider outreach.

Subject: Assembly Bill No. 659, The Cancer Prevention Act (HPV vaccine education through schools)

Effective January 1, 2024, Assembly Bill No 659, the Cancer Prevention Act, requires that schools notify parents of guardians of 6th graders about human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine recommendations. **There could be an increase in parents requesting the HPV vaccine for their child, and/or asking questions about the HPV vaccine and the communication they receive from school.** Key information and resources to support providers are summarized below.

Implementation of AB 659: The California Department of Public Health Immunization Branch has reached out to school leaders with information and resources on AB 659, including an educational template letter to families that schools may choose to use in their required outreach. While the HPV vaccine is not required for school attendance, (AB 659 is an education requirement, not a requirement for school attendance) it is an Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended vaccine that can prevent over 90% of cancers caused by HPV when given at the recommended ages. As the most trusted source of vaccine information for families, your recommendation is vital.

HPV Vaccination as Cancer Prevention: Nationally, human papillomavirus (HPV) is estimated to cause 37,000 new cases of cancer each year. HPV is associated with six different kinds of cancer (cervical, vulvar, vaginal, anal, oropharyngeal, and penile). We have an opportunity to eliminate HPV-associated cancers, but too many children are not getting this safe and effective vaccine. (A national CDC survey estimates that only 61% of California's 13-to-17-year-olds have completed the series). The American Cancer Society and American Academy of Pediatrics recommend vaccination at ages 9-12, and the CDC recommends the HPV vaccine at ages 11-12 and as early as age 9.

Reminders and Tips for Providers:

- The California Department of Public Health, in conjunction with the Vaccines for Children Program, provides free HPV vaccines for all children enrolled in Medi-Cal or who have no insurance. The HPV vaccine is a covered benefit for insurances through age 26.
- Making a strong recommendation for HPV vaccines for all patients aged 9-26 years may improve vaccination rates by up to 5 times.
- Recommending the HPV vaccine starting at age 9 has been shown to significantly increase vaccine series completion. Consider setting electronic health record and pharmacy notifications to start at age 9. As a reminder, the California Immunization Registry (CAIR) forecasts initiation of the HPV vaccine series starting at age 9. The National HPV Vaccination Roundtable has a suite of resource to support starting HPV vaccination at age 9.

Educational Resources for Providers and Patients:

- Just the Facts: Flyer for providers containing facts needed to respond to common questions and concerns about the HPV vaccine (American Cancer Society)
- Announcement Approach Handout: Brief summary flyer for providers on the announcement or presumptive approach for recommending HPV vaccine (HPV IQ)
- Talking to Parents about HPV Vaccine Tip Sheet: Suggested answers to common questions parents/guardians may have about HPV vaccine (CDC)
- Vaccines for Your Preteen: Flyer for parents/patients with information about both school-required and routinely recommended vaccines for 11-and-12-year-olds (CDPH)
- ACS parent handouts: Three informational handouts for parents about the HPV vaccine (American Cancer Society)

More resources on HPV vaccination can be found at www.hpvroundtable.org and www.cdc.gov/hpv.

Thank you for your efforts to advance HPV vaccination to protect future generations from HPV cancers!