ACIP Approves 2-Dose HPV Immunization

Two-Dose HPV Immunization Approved for Adolescents 11-14 Years of Age

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend that 11 through 14 year olds receive two doses of HPV vaccine at least six months apart rather than the previously recommended three doses.

Young adults aged 15 through 26 years will continue to need three doses of HPV vaccine.

For more information read the CDC’s press release: http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2016/p1020-hpv-shots.html

Are Your Adolescent Patient Up-to-date?

The weather is getting colder, days are getting shorter and families are bringing their kids in for their yearly flu shots. It is not easy to get adolescents in for regular visits- now is a perfect opportunity to make sure your adolescent patients have what they need.

Results from the 2015 National Immunization Survey for Teens show that Philadelphia has some of the highest rates for all three of the routinely recommended adolescent vaccines: Tetanus-diptheria-acellular-pertussis (Tdap), the quadrivalent meningococcal vaccine (MCV4) and Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines.

This is an achievement and testament to your hard work, but these results also highlight the importance of continuing work to make sure we maintain our high rates and keep increasing HPV vaccine series completion.
Getting teens up to date may now be even easier with a new recommendation from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. All 11-14 year olds now need only 2 doses at 0 and 6 months to complete the HPV vaccine series. Teens and young adults 15 – 26 years old still need all three doses to be fully protected.

Why the new recommendation? Studies show that two doses are just as effective for this age group because teens under the age of 15 make the same or higher immune response after receiving two doses compared to older teens and young adults who receive three. So, while older teens and young adults still need all three doses for full protection, two doses offer the same protection to young teens.

Missed opportunities and the strength of your recommendation are two key factors that impact immunization rates. So when you see your adolescent patients this fall and winter, whether it is for a well or an acute visit, check their immunization records to make sure they are up to date. If they are missing any vaccine, this is your chance to give it. By the time an adolescent turns 18, he or she should have received:

- 1 Tdap dose at age 11-12 years
- 2 doses of MCV4: 1st dose at age 11-12 years and 2nd booster dose at age 16-18 years
- 2 doses of HPV4 or 9 for 11-12 year olds at 0 and 6 months. To catch up teens 15 years or older, you must still give a 3 dose series at 0, 1-2 and 6 months

Recommend all three of the adolescent vaccines in the same way on the same day. These vaccines are all important to protect teens from infections for which they are at high risk and that can cause significant illness now and in the future.

For more information about the adolescent vaccine series for your staff and for families:

- www.3formephilly.org
- www.cdc.gov/vaccines/teens
- www.prevent-hpv.org
- www.cdc.gov/hpv/hcp/index.html

For reminder-recall resources to help get families who are due for vaccines back to clinics, please contact the Philadelphia Immunization Program.

For specific questions about the adolescent vaccine series or the diseases that they prevent, please contact the Medical Director of the Immunization Program.