



Child Health Advocacy Institute Policy Recommendation: Compulsory HPV Vaccination

On this day, the sixth of March, 2007, Children's National Medical Center's Committee on Advocacy & Public Policy unanimously recommends to the Children's National Medical Center Board adoption of the following institutional policy position on compulsory vaccination against the human papilloma virus (HPV):

Children's National Medical Center supports the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommendations for use of the HPV vaccine in pre-adolescent and adolescent girls as an effective way to prevent cervical cancer. We offer the vaccine to all of our female primary care patients in the recommended age group. Children's acknowledges the validity of the concerns that have been raised about the immediate implementation of compulsory HPV vaccination. Therefore, Children's National Medical Center recommends that states and other jurisdictions address these concerns immediately and further that the HPV vaccine be made mandatory for pre-adolescent and adolescent girls. In addition, emphasis should be placed on making the vaccine available immediately to all girls and young women for whom it is indicated and on expediting education and vaccine funding for vulnerable populations, particularly in communities with a high incidence of cervical cancer. Prior to the vaccine becoming compulsory, it is critical that states and other jurisdictions implement the following strategies:

- Conduct public information campaigns aimed at educating the public on the connection between HPV infection and cervical cancer, the importance of protecting oneself against HPV infection, the value of screening for cervical cancer through regular pap smears, and the effectiveness and side effects of the HPV vaccine;
- Continuously and vigorously monitor the vaccine administration data for the safety and effectiveness of the HPV vaccine and be prepared to modify vaccine policies as soon as new information becomes available;
- Provide a funding mechanism to ensure that all girls and women in the targeted age group have access to the HPV vaccine at an affordable cost, including the uninsured and under-insured; and
- Include an opt-out provision.

To ensure that the above recommendations are given the necessary time to be realized, a target window, not to exceed two years, is strongly recommended prior to implementation of laws or regulations in support of compulsory administration of the HPV vaccine. Children's National Medical Center will continue advocacy in this area and will take a leadership role in educating health care providers and the community about the importance of the HPV vaccine in preventing cervical cancer.

Approved by the Children's National Medical Center Board Chair on the 3rd day of April 2007.