

October 27, 2016

Dear provider,

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices voted this month to recommend a 2-dose schedule for HPV vaccination in some children. The recommendation was immediately [approved](#) by CDC Director Tom Frieden. We expect the final recommendation to be published in CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) in December.

We are very excited about this change! We have struggled the past few years in Washington to increase our HPV vaccine coverage rates. A 2-dose recommendation gives us the opportunity to promote on-time vaccination, because it means fewer doses and better protection from life-threatening cancers.

Two doses of HPV vaccine given at least 6 months apart have been shown to provide safe, effective and long-lasting protection when given to adolescents aged 9 through 14 years. Reducing the number of shots and trips to the doctor will make it easier for parents to get their child protected.

Providers may now use clinical judgement to start implementing a 2-dose HPV vaccine schedule, using the criteria below.

- Continue to give the first HPV vaccine dose at 11-12 years old (the series may be started as young as 9 years).
- If the first HPV vaccine dose was given before the teen turned 15 years, only one more dose is needed and should be given at least 6 months after the first dose.

Some children will still require 3 doses of HPV vaccine:

- Adolescents ages 9 through 14 years who have already received two doses of HPV vaccine less than 5 months apart (the minimum interval) will still require a third dose.
- Teens and young adults who start the series at ages 15 through 26 years still need three doses of HPV vaccine.
- Three doses are still recommended for people ages 9 through 26 years with weakened immune systems.

We are working to update materials, guidance, and tools to reflect the new recommendation. This includes changing the forecaster in the Washington State Immunization Information System (IIS), which predicts which vaccines a patient needs. We do not have an exact date yet for an updated forecast in the IIS, but it will take several months to make this change.

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