

Increase HPV vaccination rates with a strong provider recommendation

Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination rates are lower than other adolescent vaccination rates in Iowa. For example, the percent of 13-to-15-year-olds in Iowa who have completed the HPV vaccine series was 46.2% in 2019, compared to 78.5% for meningococcal and 79.5% for Tdap.¹ The HPV vaccine is safe, effective, and prevents certain types of cancer. A strong recommendation for HPV vaccination from a healthcare provider is an effective and evidence-based way to increase HPV vaccination rates.² To give a strong recommendation, the provider assumes parents want their children to receive all CDC-recommended vaccinations during that day's office visit.

This announcement approach (also known as the presumptive approach) involves noting the child's age, announcing that children at that age are due for vaccines that prevent several diseases with HPV cancers in the middle of the list, and saying the vaccinations will happen today. For example, a healthcare provider may say, "Now that Sophia is 12, she is due for three vaccines. Today, she'll get vaccines against meningitis, HPV cancers, and whooping cough." Healthcare providers should start the 2-dose series at the age 9 well visit. Starting the vaccine series and the conversation about HPV vaccination at age 9 will increase the success of completing the series by age 13.

After initiating the HPV vaccination series, it is important to make sure the patient receives the second dose as well. Other evidence-based ways to increase HPV vaccination initiation and completion rates include reducing missed opportunities by using electronic health record alerts, provider prompts, reminder and recall systems, and standing orders. Check out the additional resources and links listed below for more information.

Additional resources/links:

- Steps for Increasing HPV Vaccination in Practice from the America Cancer Society: <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/online-documents/en/pdf/flyers/steps-for-increasing-hpv-vaccination-in-practice.pdf>
- Clinician and Support Staff Guides from the National HPV Vaccination Roundtable: <https://hpvroundtable.org/action-guides/>
- A one-pager on the announcement approach from HPV IQ: <https://www.hpviq.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/HPVIQ-flyer-FINAL.pdf>
- HPV Vaccination Starts at Age 9 from the National HPV Vaccination Roundtable: <https://hpvroundtable.org/hpv-vaccination-starts-at-9/>

Works cited:

1. HPV Vaccine Data from the Iowa Department of Public Health, <https://tracking.idph.iowa.gov/Health/Immunization/Human-Papillomavirus-Vaccine/Human-Papillomavirus-Vaccine-Data>.
2. N. Brewer et al. Announcements Versus Conversations to Improve HPV Vaccination Coverage: A Randomized Trial. *Pediatrics*. 2017 Jan; 139(1). <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5192091/>