



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE  
Thomas Farley, MD, MPH  
*Commissioner*

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Bureau of Immunization

**\*\*DISTRIBUTE TO ALL CLINICAL AND OFFICE STAFF \*\***

January 5, 2012

42-09 28<sup>th</sup> Street  
5<sup>th</sup> floor, CN21  
Queens, NY 11101

Dear Colleague:

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has released recommendations for the use of the quadrivalent human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV4) [Gardasil<sup>®</sup>, Merck] in males. HPV4 vaccine should be given to:

- All males at 11-12 years of age, as a 3-dose series,
- Males 13 through 21 years of age who have not completed the 3-dose series,
- Males 22 through 26 years of age who are:
  - Immunocompromised (as a result of infection, disease, or medications)
  - HIV positive
  - Men who have sex with men (MSM)

The vaccine series should be administered as early as possible to obtain the maximum benefit and may be started as early as 9 years of age. Although HPV4 is licensed for use in males through age 26, it is not routinely recommended for males 22 through 26 years of age if they do not have one of the risk factors listed above.

Details about these recommendations are available at  
[www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6050.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6050.pdf)

For those persons eligible for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program, HPV4 vaccine continues to be available for both males and females. The bivalent HPV vaccine (HPV2) [Cervarix<sup>®</sup>, GSK] may also be used to vaccinate females 9 to 26 years. HPV2 is also available through the VFC Program for eligible females 9 to 18 years of age.

Under New York State Insurance Department regulation,\* private (commercial) insurance plans that are regulated by New York State are required to cover HPV4 vaccine for males 9 through 18 years of age, effective October 25, 2011. If you experience any problems with reimbursement, we ask that you please inform us so we can help ensure that insurance plans are complying with this requirement. Providers should verify coverage with insurance carriers prior to vaccinating males 19 years of age and older.

For questions about these recommendations, vaccine supply, the VFC Program, the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR) or to report problems with insurance reimbursement, please e-mail us at [nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov](mailto:nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov) or call 347-396-2400.

Sincerely,

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc

\* New York State Insurance Department Circular Letter No. 13 (2006), May 10, 2006 – Coverage for Preventive and Primary Care Services, available at:  
[www.dfs.ny.gov/insurance/circltr/2006/cl06\\_13.htm](http://www.dfs.ny.gov/insurance/circltr/2006/cl06_13.htm)