

The HPV (Human Papillomavirus) Immunisation Programme

Eligibility Criteria

Document Information

Project/Department	HPV Project Team
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Document History

Date	Version	Description of Changes
18 July 2008	2.0 - Final	Updated based on feedback from DHBs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question 1 – second paragraph added • Question 2 – updated subsection (a) and (b) headings, new subsection (c) added • New question 3 – exceptions to rules in Question 2 • Question 4 version 1.0 deleted • Question 6 (Q7 in version 1.0) reworded to include girls younger than 12 years • Question 9b (Q10 in version 1.0) – new first sentence added.
7 July 2008	1.0	n/a

HPV Immunisation Programme – eligibility criteria

1. Who is eligible for free HPV vaccine?

Girls born on or after 1 January 1990 will be eligible for free HPV vaccine. The HPV immunisation programme will be introduced in stages, beginning with the oldest girls first.

To ensure high immunisation coverage, the Ministry prefers the majority of eligible girls be immunised through school-based programmes. However, HPV vaccine will also be available to eligible girls from their family doctor, practice nurse, Māori or Pacific providers, youth health services or other health clinics and settings if they or their parents do not consent to school-based vaccine delivery.

2. When will HPV vaccine be available?

a. Girls born during 1990 and 1991 – who are in school or not

From 1 September 2008 free HPV vaccine will be available to girls who were born during 1990 and 1991 (inclusive) regardless of whether they are in school or not. These girls can receive HPV vaccine from their family doctor, practice nurse, Māori or Pacific providers, youth health services or other health clinics and settings.

b. Girls born from 1992 onwards – who are still in school

Younger girls (born from 1992 onwards) who are still in school should not receive HPV vaccine from 1 September 2008. These girls should wait until school programmes have started in their area (in 2009 and 2010). The Ministry's preference is for girls to receive HPV vaccine at the time scheduled for their DHB's school-based programme.

From January 2009 girls born from 1992 onwards who are still in school may receive free HPV vaccine from their family doctor, practice nurse, Māori or Pacific providers, youth health services or other health clinics and settings only if they or their parents have determined they will not consent to school-based vaccination.

c. Girls born from 1992 onwards who are not in school

From 1 September 2008 girls born from 1992 onwards who are not in school can receive free HPV vaccine through their family doctor, practice nurse, Māori or Pacific providers, youth health services or other health clinics and settings.

3. Are there any exceptions to the rules in question 2 above?

Yes. From 1 September 2008 girls and young women in the eligible age range who may benefit from receiving HPV vaccine (e.g. because of risk) may be immunised at the provider's discretion. However the provider will need to follow up these girls to ensure that all 3 HPV vaccines doses will be given.

4. Can eligible girls who paid for HPV vaccine prior to 1 September 2008 receive any remaining doses for free from 1 September 2008?

Yes. Eligible girls who paid for HPV vaccine can receive their remaining doses free from 1 September 2008 through their family doctor, practice nurse, Māori or Pacific providers, youth health services or other health clinics and settings.

As with other vaccines, the Ministry will not refund any privately-purchased HPV vaccine.

5. How long will HPV vaccine be offered to eligible girls and young women?

a. Girls born in 1990 and 1991

Girls born in 1990 and 1991 have until 31 December 2011 to start the immunisation programme. If they have not received dose 1 by 31 December 2011 they cannot start the programme.

b. Girls born from 1992 onwards

Girls born from 1992 onwards have until their 20th birthday to start the immunisation programme. If they have not received dose 1 by their 20th birthday they cannot start the programme.

6. Can girls younger than 12 years of age receive the free HPV vaccine?

The Ministry of Health recommends that HPV vaccine be given to 12 year old girls (school year 8). However, girls who are in school year 8 and are younger than 12 years can receive free HPV vaccine as part of the school-based programme.

The scheduled time for HPV immunisation in primary care is 12 years of age (outside of the school based programme). However, with parental consent, younger girls may be immunised depending on risk. (Note: GARDASIL® is licensed in girls from age 9 years.)

7. If a girl starts her immunisations at her family doctor, practice nurse, Māori or Pacific providers, youth health services or other health clinics and settings can she continue in a school based programme?

The Ministry's preference is for girls who receive any doses through her family doctor, practice nurse, Māori or Pacific providers, youth health services or other health clinics and settings to continue to receive the remaining doses through that health care provider.

8. If a girl starts her immunisations in a school based programme, can she continue at her family doctor, practice nurse, Māori or Pacific providers, youth health services or other health clinics and settings?

Yes. However the Ministry's preference is for girls to complete their immunisations in school based programmes where they are offered.

9. At what age can a girl give her own consent to HPV immunisation?

a. Primary Care

Girls under 16 years of age have the right to give consent for minor treatment, including immunisation, providing they understand fully the benefits and risks involved. For more information, see the section 2.2 of the *Immunisation Handbook 2006*.

b. School based programmes

Parental consent will be sought for all girls attending school.

Girls under 16 years of age need written parental consent to receive HPV vaccine through school based programmes.

Girls over 16 years of age may choose to self-consent to the HPV vaccine. They will still need to sign the consent form.

10. Can non-resident girls in the eligible age range receive free HPV vaccine?

Non-resident girls under 16 years of age and who will be in New Zealand for 8 months or more (to ensure time to receive all 3 doses) may receive free HPV vaccine. If these girls have not received dose 1 by their 16th birthday they cannot start the programme.

Non-resident girls under 16 years of age and who will be in New Zealand for less than 8 months cannot receive free HPV vaccine.

Non-resident girls 16 years and over cannot receive free HPV vaccine – regardless of their length of stay in New Zealand.