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To: Health Insurers and Health Plans
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From: Susan M. Lett, MD, Medical Director, Immunization Program
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Date: December 27, 2011

Subject: Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine for Routine Immunizations of VFC-Eligible Boys Now Available

On October 25, 2011, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to expand the recommendations for the use of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine to now include males 9 through 21 years of age (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6050.pdf>). The ACIP also voted to include this new recommendation in the federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program for males through 18 years of age.

Vaccine Recommendations

A 3-dose series of HPV vaccine is now recommended for routine use in both females and males at age 11 or 12 years old. The quadrivalent HPV vaccine (Gardasil[®]) is approved for use in females and males and the bivalent HPV vaccine (Cervarix[®]) is approved for use in females. The second dose in the series should be administered 1 to 2 months after the first dose and the third dose should be administered 6 months after the first dose. The HPV vaccines series should be completed with the same HPV vaccine product whenever possible. Catch-up vaccination is recommended for both females and males.

State-Supplied HPV Vaccine

The MDPH Immunization Program supplies the quadrivalent HPV vaccine (Gardasil[®]) **only** for girls and boys ages 9 through 18 years of age who are eligible for the VFC Program, which includes those who are uninsured, enrolled in MassHealth/Medicaid, American Indian or Alaska Native, or underinsured and seen at a federally qualified community health center. Children enrolled in the Children's Medical Security Plan (CMSP) and sCHIP are also covered using state funds. There is no state-supplied HPV vaccine available for those not eligible for the VFC Program.

See attached for an updated *Childhood Vaccine Availability Table* which reflects these new recommendations.

As always, we urge all health insurers and health plans to reimburse for the cost of all ACIP-recommended vaccines not supplied by MDPH as well as the cost for their administration.

If you have any questions regarding vaccine availability please contact the MDPH Vaccine Management Unit at 617-983-6828.

Please disseminate this memorandum to appropriate staff in your facility.