

Improving human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine uptake



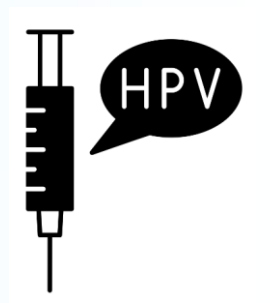
A toolkit of information and resources for general practice



Contents

This toolkit aims to provide health professionals in general practice with information and resources on HPV vaccination that can be used to improve local uptake and help prevent HPV-related cancers and diseases

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Introduction to the HPV vaccine

- Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a common sexually transmitted infection that can lead to various cancers and other diseases.
- The human papillomavirus (HPV) is a common and usually symptom-free virus.
- There are more than 100 types of HPV. Some can cause warts and verrucae but “high-risk” types of HPV can cause changes to DNA, increasing the risk of certain cancers.
- HPV vaccines became part of the routine vaccination schedule in 2008 for school-age girls and the programme was extended to include boys in 2019. A programme for gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM) was introduced in 2018.
- The HPV vaccine used in the NHS vaccination programme is called Gardasil 9 and targets nine types of HPV, which protect against oral, throat, cervical, vulval, vaginal, penile and anal cancers and genital warts.
- For most individuals, only one dose of HPV vaccine is now needed to offer protection.



Benefits of HPV vaccination

Vaccination against HPV has proven effective in reducing the rates of cervical cancer ([UK Health Security Agency](#)). A 2021 study found that cervical cancer rates were reduced by almost 90% in women in their 20s in England, who were offered the vaccine aged 12-13 ([Falcaro et al. 2021](#)).

Additionally, it is one of the key pillars alongside cervical screening and pre-cancer treatment to help achieve the [NHS ambition to eliminate cervical cancer by 2040](#).

Other benefits include

- Prevention of HPV-related cancers (anal, penile, oropharyngeal, vulval, and vaginal)
- Reduction in genital warts
- Herd immunity (reducing overall circulation rates of HPV in the community)
- Prevention of transmission
- Protection against recurrent respiratory papillomatosis
- Cost-effectiveness (reducing the burden of HPV-related diseases)



Who is eligible for HPV vaccination and where to get it?

	Eligible population	Where to get the vaccine
Cohort 1	Children aged 12 to 13 (school year 8) and catch-up opportunities until end of year 11	Secondary school (or community clinics for those not in school) via the school-age immunisation service.
Cohort 2	Girls up to 25 years and boys born after 1 September 2006 up to their 25 th birthday who remain unvaccinated on leaving school	Via the school-age immunisation service or GP surgery
Cohort 3	Gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM up to 46th birthday) not previously vaccinated	Sexual health clinic or HIV clinic*

*The HPV vaccine is also sometimes recommended for other people at higher risk from HPV, such as:

- any transgender people who are felt to have the same risk as men who have sex with men
- sex workers
- people with HIV



Cohort 1: Children aged 12-13 (school year 8)

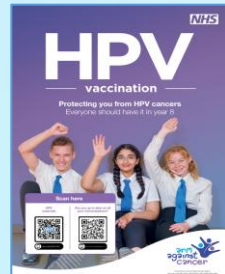
Children aged 12 to 13 years

The HPV vaccine is routinely recommended for children in school year 8, for children aged 12 to 13 years old, see [Immunisation schedule](#) for further guidance).

This cohort normally receive their vaccination as part of the school-age immunisations programme delivered by school-age immunisation services in [Hampshire and the Isle of Wight](#) and [Dorset](#) which also offer catch-up opportunities in school and via community clinics up to the end of year 11. The links contain contact details for each area.

Education and resources

Ctrl+Click on the images below for further information and promotional materials.





Cohort 2: Girls aged up to 25 and boys born after 1 September 2006 up to their 25th birthday who missed having the vaccine at school

Girls aged up to 25 and boys born after 1 September 2006 who missed having the vaccine at school

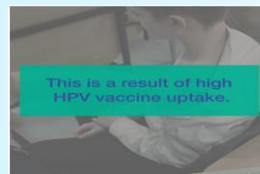
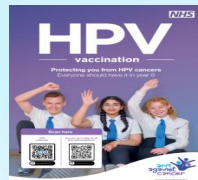
If the routine HPV vaccine delivered through the schools programme is missed:

- Girls remain eligible to receive the HPV vaccine up to their 25th birthday
- Boys who were born on/after 1 September 2006 are eligible up until their 25th birthday
- For individuals who started but did not complete their vaccination before reaching the age of 25 years, the vaccination course should be completed where possible as per the [vaccination schedule](#)
- HPV vaccine should also be offered to eligible individuals coming into the UK if they have not been offered vaccination in their country of origin
- For individuals who are immunosuppressed see [Green Book chapter 18a](#)

This cohort can receive their HPV vaccination via the school-age immunisation service (where they will be offered the vaccine until they leave school in year 11) or GP surgery.

Education and resources

Ctrl+Click on the images below for further information and promotional materials.





Cohort 3: GBMSM (up to 46th birthday)

GBMSM (up to 46th birthday)

Gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM), up to and including 45 years old, who attend specialist sexual health services, are eligible for HPV vaccination if they have not previously been vaccinated.

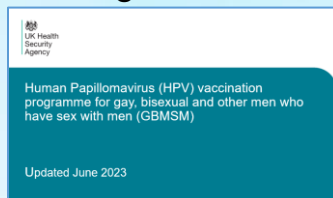
- Under 25s in this cohort should be offered a single dose of HPV vaccine*
- GBMSM who have already received at least one dose before their 25th birthday are considered to have completed their vaccination course and do not require further doses
- GBMSM aged 25 years and older (up to and including 45 years) should continue on the 2 dose HPV vaccination schedule unless immunosuppressed or known to be living with HIV then 3 doses are required

Other eligible at-risk individuals include some transgender individuals, sex workers, and men and women living with HIV infection (See [Green Book chapter 18a](#)).

This cohort can receive their HPV vaccination at a [sexual health clinic](#) or HIV clinic.

Education and resources

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How can general practice help?

The national uptake ambition for the school-age HPV vaccination programme is 90% but the national uptake is less than pre-pandemic levels – see figures below for your local area.

2024/25 HPV vaccination coverage in year 8 by Local Authority Area

[Human papillomavirus \(HPV\) vaccine coverage in England: 2024 to 2025 - GOV.UK](#)

LA	Girls	Boys	LA	Girls	Boys
BCP	75.1%	67.2%	Hampshire	81.8%	78.6%
Dorset	70.8%	60.7%	Isle of Wight	73.0%	66.4%
Southampton	65.3%	56.8%	Portsmouth	70.0%	66.2%

You can help by

1. Offering opportunistic* [catch-up HPV vaccination to 14 to 24-year-olds](#) who have missed their school-age vaccine on leaving school. *For each vaccination dose delivered, an item of service fee is payable under the General Medical Service Contract. For more information [click here](#).*

*opportunistic vaccinations can be triggered by:

- Patient request (following a review that they are eligible)
- Identification of gaps in a patient’s vaccination record upon presentation of an unrelated issue e.g. Learning Disability annual health check, LTC reviews

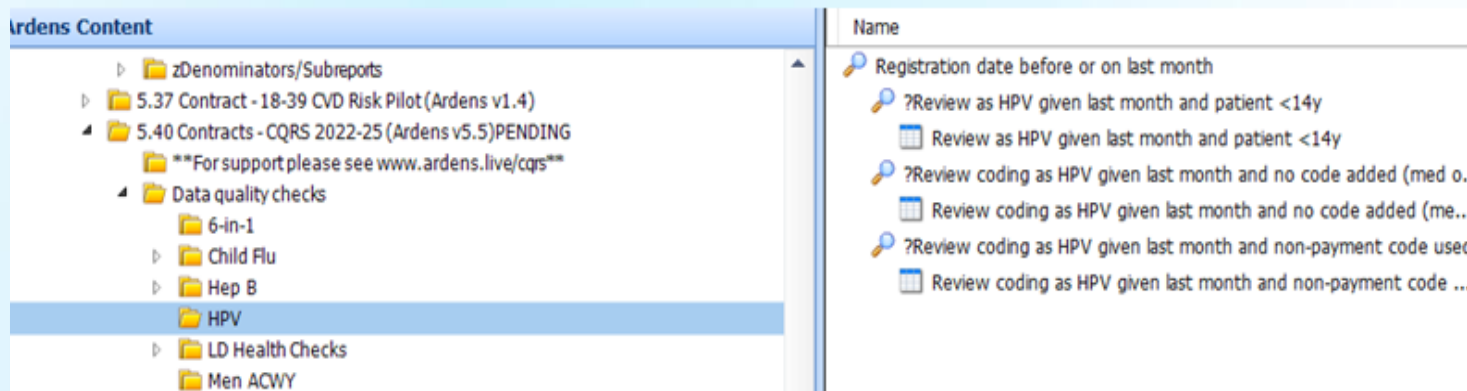
2. In February and March send out text reminders to parents of children in year 8 about returning the HPV consent form (**slide 12**).



Ardens and HPV searches

Ardens searches: EMIS

To support data quality of HPV, Ardens have included [5.40 CQRS Searches : Ardens EMIS Web](#) as part of their CQRS search suite.



New “Smart” Childhood Immunisations Template: EMIS

Ardens have deployed a new version of the Childhood Immunisations Template (v18.45 or above), which includes the following:

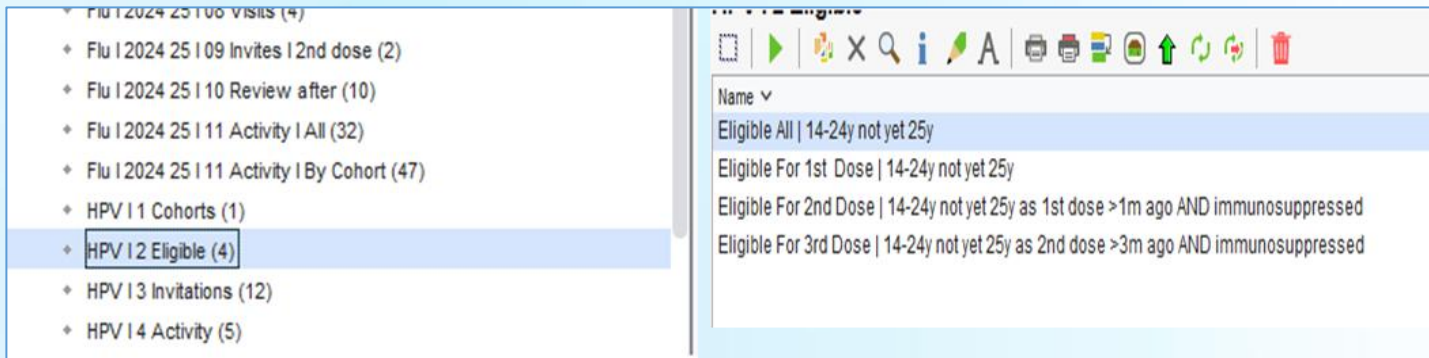
- a new “smart” front page advising clinicians of which vaccines a child has had based on their age and vaccination history
- any catch-up vaccines the child is eligible for
- if a vaccine is contraindicated or has previously been declined.



Ardens and HPV searches

System Wide TPP searches: SystemOne

To support data quality of HPV, TPP have system wide searches available : [V&I Enhanced Services Activity Reports : Ardens](#)



Ardens Childhood Immunisations Template: SystemOne

Ardens have deployed a Childhood Immunisations Template which includes the following:

- a home page advising clinicians of which vaccines a child has had based on their age and vaccination history
- any catch-up vaccines the child is eligible for
- if a vaccine is contraindicated or has previously been declined.

To find out more, please read [Childhood Immunisations : Ardens](#)



Text reminders

Text reminders to parents of all children in school year 8 (Cohort 1)

These can be sent by the practice in **Feb and March** to encourage parents to return their e-consent forms to the school immunisation teams.

As your child is in school year 8 you will soon be receiving an invitation from the School Aged Immunisation team for your child to have their HPV vaccination. This vaccination, given at school, helps to reduce your child’s risk of getting HPV related cancer in later life.

As your GP practice we would encourage you to respond to the invitation by completing the electronic consent form when it is emailed to you. More information: [Human Papillomavirus \(HPV\) Vaccine - Cancer Matters Wessex](#)

Hampshire	023 82 318318 or visit the web page at School Age Immunisations :: Hampshire and Isle of Wight NHS Foundation Trust
Southampton, Portsmouth, IOW	0300 123 5074 or visit the web page at School Age Immunisations :: Hampshire and Isle of Wight NHS Foundation Trust
Dorset	dhc.immsenquiries@nhs.net or visit the web page at Dorset HealthCare :: Dorset School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS)

Age range search for those in year 8 only.

- Academic year 2025/26: Year 8 DOB 01/09/2012 - 31/08/2013
- Academic year 2026/27: Year 8 DOB 01/09/2013 - 31/08/2014





Resources for healthcare professionals

HPV vaccination schedule

The [vaccination schedule](#) has been updated several times since its introduction. Please use the thumbnail to access the latest version of the vaccination schedule, which is outlined in the Green Book, HPV chapter 18a.

[Detailed information and guidance for healthcare professionals](#)



Opportunistic vaccination

- [NICE: Identifying people eligible for vaccination and opportunistic vaccination](#)
- [The Green Book, chapter 2, Consent](#)



Resources continued

Supplementary resources

- [JCVI statement on a one-dose schedule for the routine HPV immunisation programme](#)
- [HPV vaccination programme: changes from September 2023 letter](#)
- [HPV vaccination guidance for healthcare practitioners \(UKHSA\)](#)
- [Information on the HPV vaccination from September 2023](#)
- [HPV Vaccines and Cervical Cancer Factsheet for Health Professionals](#)
- [HPV universal vaccination: leaflet \(UKHSA\)](#)
- [NHS England » NHS vaccination strategy](#)
- [The HPV vaccine | Cancer Research UK](#)

Practical tools

- [Vaccine coverage data collection](#)
- [Vaccination records and data capture](#)
- [Training and resources | GARDASIL®9 \(Human Papillomavirus 9 valent Vaccine\) | MSD Connect](#)



Resources continued

Patient/Parent facing resources

- [Human Papillomavirus \(HPV\) Vaccine - Cancer Matters Wessex](#)
- [HPV \(Human Papillomavirus\) | Vaccine Knowledge Project](#)
- [HPV and cervical cancer factsheet](#)
- [Universal HPV leaflet](#) (available in 33 languages and easy read)
- A British Sign Language (BSL) video of this leaflet is available to download, [watch](#) or signpost to
- [Eve-Appeal-easy-read_final_feb-2025.pdf](#)
- [Human papillomavirus \(HPV\) - NHS](#)

Video resources

- <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLVFktxC49i7XLSMzuzmAywNeZozixgIPz>
- [EDUCATE: All about HPV](#)
- [COMMUNICATE: Protecting my teenager](#)
- [COMMUNICATE: The HPV vaccine and my teenager](#)



Acknowledgements

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