

# Human Papillomavirus Vaccine—The Pharmacists' Perspective



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# Background



- **The 2013 Pharmacy-based Influenza and Adult Immunization Survey conducted by the American Pharmaceutical Association reports that while 88% of pharmacies administer influenza vaccines, and 75% administer pneumococcal and herpes zoster vaccines, less than half administer hepatitis A and B vaccines and only 37% administer HPV vaccines.**

# Why are Pharmacies not providing HPV Vaccines?



- Pharmacists are trained providers of vaccines and most pharmacies are now equipped for easy vaccine access for patients.
- It is commonplace for pharmacies to provide influenza, pneumococcal, and herpes zoster vaccinations but a much lower percentage of pharmacies provide other vaccinations including the HPV vaccine.
- What are the barriers to the provision of the HPV vaccine?

# Vaccines at Reeves-Sain Drug Store



- Vaccines provided since 1997
- 5000+ vaccines given yearly
- Workplace vaccine clinics and long-term care vaccinations provided statewide
- Travel clinic providing hepatitis A and B, malaria, typhoid
- Administer relatively few HPV vaccines compared to large numbers of vaccines provided in other areas.
- Beta test site for the TWIS reporting system in TN

# Barriers identified (public perception)



- Misconceptions about age (pre-pubescent females)
- Misconceptions about sex (males vs females)
- Misinformation about side effect potential
- Misinformation about benefit potential
- Stigma related to sexually transmitted nature of disease
- Age range for this vaccine is unusual—18-26 year olds are typically not seeking routine medical care.
- Not much demand among the public (walk-in requests)
- Not recommended by provider

# Pharmacy Specific Barriers



- Pharmacists often don't want to overstep traditional practice lines with pediatricians
- Insurance reimbursement is by far the largest barrier to the provision of the vaccine for those who are seeking to be vaccinated

# Insurance Reimbursement Issues



- HPV vaccines are some of the most expensive vaccines (\$200 per dose)
- Without insurance coverage, patients are typically “priced out” of the vaccine.
- Many insurance companies will tell patients that the vaccine is covered but that can mean only in a physician’s office.
- If that patient’s physician does not carry the vaccine they are faced with not being vaccinated or finding an alternative practitioner who provides the vaccine in their office.

# What Can Be Done?



- Advocate vaccines to all incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders and college freshmen. Varicella and meningococcal vaccines required for these age groups. We are talking with all of our students and their parents this year about starting the HPV series.
- Targeting young women on birth control pills with “conversation starters”—information included with their prescriptions to let them know about the vaccine

## What Can Be Done? - 2



- Identify and partner with providers who are not providing the vaccine—gynecologists, some family practitioners, health departments
- Convince health insurance carriers to provide coverage for all vaccines in pharmacies. If we must turn patients away due to non-payment for the vaccine or non-payment in pharmacies, these are missed vaccination opportunities. These patients may never get the vaccine if we miss the opportunity once.

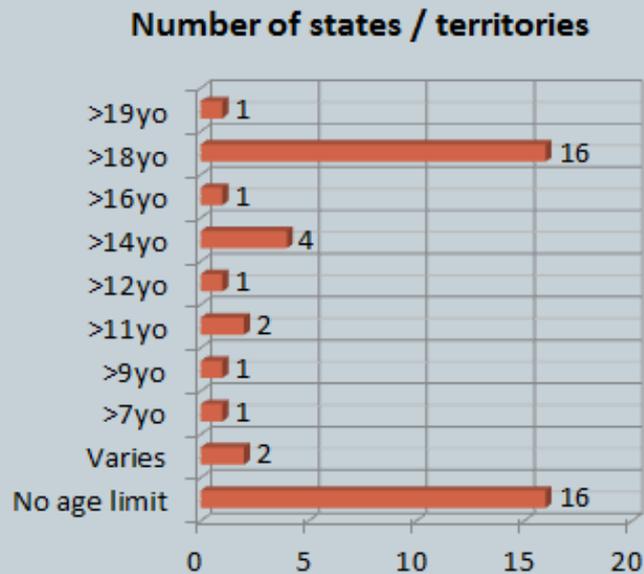
# What Can Be Done? - 3



- **State mandates—would vaccination rates for Varicella, MMR, meningitis be so high without state mandates?**
- **Eliminate as many state limitations on age of patients to whom pharmacists may provide vaccines.**

# Pharmacist Administered Vaccines Patient-Age Limitations – for HPV Vaccination

## Pharmacist Administered Vaccines Patient-Age Limitations – for HPV Vaccination



No age limit	16
Varies	2
≥7yo	1
≥9yo	1
≥11yo	2
≥12yo	1
≥14yo	4
≥16yo	1
≥18yo	16
≥19yo	1

# What Pharmacist Administered Vaccines Patient-Age Limitations – for HPV -2



No Age Limit	AL*, AK, CO, DC*, GA, MI, MS, MO, NE, NM, NV, OK, TN, UT, VA <sup>R</sup> , WA
Varies	AZ, CA
≥7yo	AR
>9yo	DE
>11yo	IN, OR
>12yo	ID
>14yo	HI, IL, KY, TX
>16yo	LA
>18yo	CT, IA*, KS, MA, ME, MN, MT, NC <sup>R</sup> , NJ, ND, PA, PR, RI, SC, VT, WI
>19yo	WY <sup>P</sup>

\*Via protocol ; <sup>R</sup> Via Rx ;

<sup>P</sup> Will change pending Regs/Effective Date