

HPV Vaccine available at Campus Health

What is HPV?

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is the name of a group of viruses spread by skin-to-skin contact. There are more than 100 different types of HPV: some cause common warts on the hands or feet while others cause warts on the genitals. Other types of HPV may cause cellular changes on a woman's cervix. Human papillomavirus affects 3 out of 4 Americans between the ages of 15 and 49 during their lifetime, although many never have visible signs of infection. Most people with HPV do not even know they have it.

What is GARDASIL® and what does it do?

In June 2006, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved GARDASIL®, a highly effective new vaccine for women to prevent Human Papilloma Virus (HPV). There are 30-40 subtypes of HPV, which can be transmitted sexually, leading to genital warts in men and women as well as cervical changes that may progress to cervical cancer.

The new vaccine will protect against HPV types 16 and 18 (which account for 70% of all cervical cancer cases) and HPV types 6 and 11 (which cause 90% of all cases of genital warts). The vaccine will not protect against types to which women have already been exposed. Women who receive GARDASIL should still continue to have cervical cancer screening (pap smear or ThinPrep®).

Who should get the vaccine?

The recommended target population for the GARDASIL vaccination includes females between the ages of 11-26, however it can be administered to girls as young as age 9. Ideally, GARDASIL should be given prior to sexual contact and possible exposure to HPV.

How many shots do I need?

Three shots are required for the vaccine to be effective. Developed by Merck, GARDASIL is delivered by injection to the upper arm or upper thigh. The second and third dose should be given at two and six months, respectively, after the first dose.

Can I get the HPV vaccine at Campus Health?

Campus Health began administering the vaccine in September 2006. GARDASIL can be administered to women in the 26 and under age group, without a provider order per recommendations by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Women who wish to receive the vaccine and are 27 years or older will need to make an appointment with a CHS Women's Health provider to discuss whether they should receive the vaccine. HPV vaccine is given by the immunization nurse on the ground floor of Campus Health.

How much will it cost?

Many insurance providers will cover the cost for women who meet the CDC guidelines. Women should check with their insurance provider to determine

whether GARDASIL will be covered. Those women without insurance coverage may contact the Campus Health Billing Office at (520) 621-6487.

What if I have United Health Student Insurance?

Patients who are covered under the United Health student insurance need to obtain a referral from a Campus Health Service provider to receive the vaccine series from Ironwood OB/GYN. United Health participants will pay a \$35 copay for each visit, including a brief initial consultation and 3 injection visits (for a total of \$140). If you are over 26 years old, United Health will not cover the vaccine, although you can pay for it yourself and receive it at Campus Health.

Where can I learn more about GARDASIL?

For more information, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/> and search for “HPV vaccine” or <http://www.gardasil.com/>.