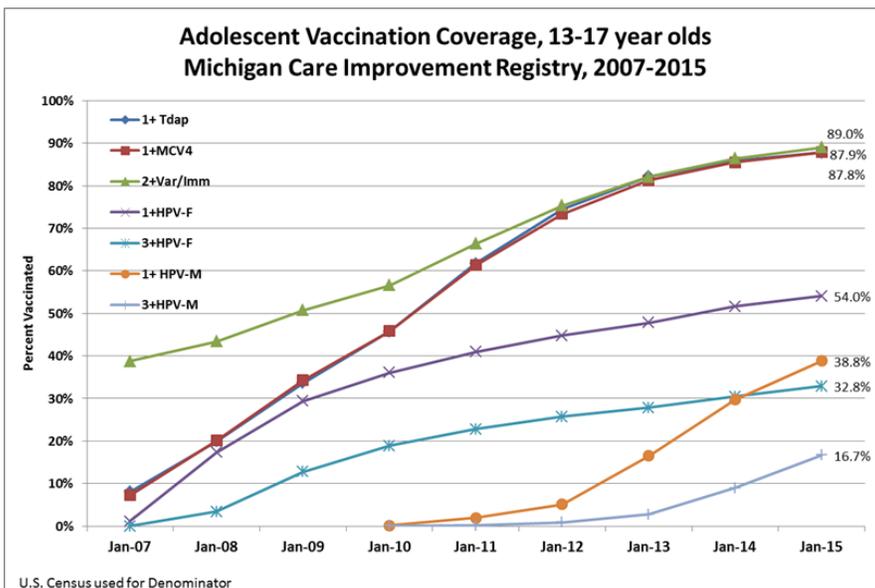


Raising human papillomavirus vaccination (HPV) rates is a priority both nationally, and in Michigan. Leading professional medical organizations including the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) support the importance of HPV vaccination as cancer prevention. These groups, along with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), are urging providers to make a strong recommendation for HPV vaccination to their patients.

Pharmacies have a unique role in assisting with increasing HPV vaccination rates, in that your setting offers a convenient way to reach patients and their families in places where they already are. One important opportunity to highlight is the role that pharmacies can play in completing the three-dose HPV vaccination series for adolescent and adult patients. Below are some trends that demonstrate the increasingly critical function that pharmacies play in immunizing patients and supplementing the medical home through vaccination at an accessible location.

Trends in Statewide Adolescent Coverage



The graph on the left shows adolescent vaccination coverage for Michigan’s 13 through 17 year olds from 2007 to 2015. Most adolescents are protected from pertussis (Tdap coverage, 87.9%), meningococcal disease (MCV coverage 87.8%) and Varicella (Var coverage or evidence of immunity, 89.0%). However, HPV vaccination coverage is far behind. Only 16.7% of males and 32.8% of females have completed the 3 dose HPV vaccination series. Frequently, adolescents are starting the HPV series (54% of females, 38.8% of males) but not completing it. Pharmacies offer convenient locations for adolescents to complete their vaccination series.

Michigan’s statewide immunization registry, the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR), should be utilized to track all vaccines administered in Michigan. By law, providers are required to report ALL immunizations administered to every child less than 20 years of age within 72 hours of administration; adult vaccination data entry is strongly encouraged. The Michigan Pharmacists Association (MPA) House of Delegates approved a resolution in February 2013 supporting a requirement that all vaccinations be entered into MCIR, regardless of age. As of October 2015, there are 1,510 pharmacies enrolled in the MCIR. However, only 17% (253) have reported 1,725 HPV vaccines to MCIR. Table 1 shows the number and type of vaccines administered by pharmacies to children and adults aged 9 through 27 years since 2007.

Pharmacy Vaccination Data

Table 1. Select Vaccines Reported to MCIR by Pharmacies since 2007 to children and adults aged 9 through 27 years

Pharmacy Type	Flu	HPV	MCV	Tdap	Total
Hospital (Outpatient)	1,318	792	173	3,637	5,920
Independent	5,557	41	82	122	5,822
Large Chain	210,145	889	2,106	4,604	217,744
Small Chain/Group	1,157	3	3	18	1,181
Total	218,197	1,725	2,364	8,381	230,667

Featured Champion

- Offer most adolescent and adult vaccines, including HPV
- Majority of HPV vaccines at their site are given to patients who have moved to attend school and need to complete the series
- Key Strategies for Improving HPV Rates:
 - Have the vaccine readily available, ideally on a walk-in basis
 - Offer evening and weekend hours
 - Communicate vaccines administered to patients' primary care physicians
 - To offset the cost of carrying and stocking a wide variety of vaccines, utilize a hub and spoke distribution method
 - Hub and spoke example: one store in a community orders a multi-pack of vaccines and distributes 1-2 vials to each local store

Submitted by a local community pharmacist

HPV Immunization Resources for Pharmacists

- Order Free Adolescent Immunization Materials: www.healthymichigan.com (click on "enter site" and "immunizations")
- Michigan Adolescent Immunization Posters: www.aimtoolkit.org/health-care/adolescents.php
- Michigan Education & Training for Health Care Personnel: www.aimtoolkit.org/health-care/education-training.php
- CDC HPV Vaccine Resources for Health Care Professionals: <http://www.cdc.gov/hpv/hcp/index.html>
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) Vaccine Education Center: vaccine.chop.edu
- Immunization Action Coalition (IAC): www.immunize.org
- HealthMap Vaccine Finder: vaccine.healthmap.org

Billing Initiatives Pertaining to HPV Vaccination in Pharmacies

- Since June 1, 2015, a [Medicaid policy](#) (MSA 15-08) went into effect that allows pharmacies to administer all ACIP-recommended vaccines to individuals 19 years of age and older. Previously, pharmacies could only provide flu vaccine to adult Medicaid clients. MI Medicaid covers HPV vaccine for both males and females through age 26 years and this change increases access for adult Medicaid clients to get vaccinations.
- Since April 1, 2015, a Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) and Blue Care Network (BCN) policy went into effect that covers HPV4, HPV9, MMR and Tdap vaccines at pharmacies for adolescents and adults per ACIP recommendations. BCN is looking at expanding to other vaccines in the future.

What can YOU do to ensure your patients get fully vaccinated?

- Integrate routine adolescent immunization assessment into your pharmacy's policies and procedures. Utilize MCIR as a clinical decision support tool to assess patients' immunization histories. Routinely document all immunizations administered in MCIR.
- Strongly recommend HPV and other adolescent vaccines to your clients. Studies consistently show that provider recommendation is the strongest predictor of vaccination.
- Ask about the vaccination status of every adolescent and adult client. Data show that pharmacies in Michigan are administering flu vaccines to adolescent and adult patients, so be sure to utilize every opportunity to promote a positive and comprehensive immunization message.
- Utilize patient reminder systems such as automated phone calls and text messages, post cards, and letters to remind patients that vaccines are due.
- Develop relationships with providers in your area by letting them know that your pharmacy stocks HPV vaccine, enters doses in MCIR, and offers a convenient location for patients to complete the HPV series.