

# Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine Costs and Financing

June 4, 2007

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## What You Should Know

- Like other vaccines, HPV vaccine will be cost effective. It will save dollars as it saves lives and reduces suffering. The retail price for the private sector HPV vaccine is \$360 for the 3-dose series. This is the most expensive vaccine series ever. The vaccine should be given before the onset of sexual activity to receive the full benefits of this vaccine.
- Federal health programs, such as the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, cover the HPV vaccine. The VFC program provides free vaccines in private provider offices and public health clinics to children and adolescents age 18 and younger, who are either uninsured, Medicaid-eligible, American Indian, or Alaska Native. The underinsured (have insurance coverage that does not cover vaccination) are covered for all vaccines in federally qualified health centers (FQHC) or local health departments in Michigan.
- Michigan has supplemented funds with the CDC discretionary Section 317 program to provide access to vaccines for the underinsured in private provider offices and to serve other high-risk populations. State funding and Section 317 funding has lagged behind the VFC entitlement funding, creating challenges for our state. Michigan will work with Michigan Advisory Committee on Immunization (MACI) to determine policy on coverage of the underinsured population in private provider offices and the use of the vaccine for women who are 19-26 years of age, using 317 funding.
- On August 16, 2006, MACI recommended that in 2006-07, the Division of Immunization use public funds to vaccinate VFC-eligible children and to petition the state to expand recommendations and funding to others in the future.
- Effective June 1, 2007, Michigan's VFC program was able to expand its 317 coverage for HPV vaccine. HPV4 vaccine can now be administered to all VFC-eligible females 9 through 18 years of age INCLUDING the underinsured seen in private provider offices. Private providers will no longer need to refer underinsured clients to an FQHC, rural health center (RHC) or the health department for HPV4 vaccine.

- MDCH will make every effort to maintain and support the funding to continue to offer this vaccine to the expanded population. These changes are effective June 1, 2007. The 2007 edition of the VFC Resource Book will be updated to reflect these changes.
- On October 30, 2006, human papillomavirus vaccine was added to the CDC VFC/pediatric Vaccine Contract with Merck. Vaccine supplies are now available through VFC provider offices.
- Medicaid and commercial insurers may cover the cost of ACIP recommended vaccines. Providers must contact their patients' insurers to determine coverage. Information on Medicaid coverage can be found in the [Medicaid Provider Manual](#).
- Merck Corporation has a patient assistance program that will pay for the HPV4 Vaccine for uninsured adults who qualify financially.
- Federal law requires that Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) be handed out whenever certain vaccinations are given, before each dose. An interim HPV4 VIS is available. See [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/HPV\\_171279\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/HPV_171279_7.pdf).
- Vaccines administered to children and adults should be entered into the web-based immunization registry - the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR). See [www.mcir.org](http://www.mcir.org).
- For more information, go to [www.cdc.gov/vaccines](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines) or [www.cdc.gov/std/hpv](http://www.cdc.gov/std/hpv).