

Human Papillomavirus: Awareness and Vaccination

Neighborhood News – July 2024

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection, with some strains causing genital warts and various forms of cancer, including cervical cancer. Early HPV vaccination and regular screening are vital in preventing cervical cancer and mitigating the disease's detrimental outcomes.

In Measurement Year (MY) 2022, Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island's Healthcare Effectiveness Data Information Set (HEDIS®) HPV vaccination rate for adolescents by age 13 was **45.64%**, a slight decrease from the MY2021 rate of **46.44%**.

How can you help?

1. **Early Vaccination:** Begin HPV vaccinations for both girls and boys at ages 11 or 12, although it can be administered as early as age 9.
2. **Opportunistic Vaccination:** Use every office visit as an opportunity to administer or schedule the HPV vaccines, especially if the adolescent is within the recommended age range.
3. **Appointment Scheduling:** Always schedule the next appointment before the member leaves the office.
4. **CDC Guidelines:** Follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [immunization schedule](#) for adolescents to maintain the timing and efficacy of the vaccination series.

Resources

For additional guidance, provider can refer to [the Rhode Island Department of Health Youth and Young Adult Sexual Health App: Right to Know](#).

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