HPV Awareness
A Parent’s Guide to HPV-Related Cancers and Diseases

HPV=human papillomavirus.
The persons depicted in these materials are models being used for illustrative purposes only.
DISCUSSION TIP: When discussing disease prevalence with parents, remind them about the potentially serious consequences of HPV for both males and females.¹

HPV is more common than some parents may think

- Approximately **14 million new infections** occur every year in the United States.²
- About 50% of new infections occur in **15- to 24-year-olds**.²
- Approximately **85% to 95%** of sexually-active males and females will become infected with HPV in their lifetime.³,a

Reinforce the potential consequences

- **For most people, HPV clears on its own.** But for others who don’t clear the virus, it could cause certain cancers and other diseases in both males and females.²
  - There is no way to predict who will or will not clear the virus.¹

Transmission

- **Exposure to the virus can happen to any adolescent** who has genital contact with someone already infected with HPV.¹
  - Intercourse isn’t necessary, but is the most common mode of transmission.¹

³ Number represents any HPV type, not just Types 6, 11, 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52, and 58.³
What is HPV?

Human papillomavirus, or HPV, is a virus with potentially serious consequences that can affect both boys and girls later in life.

There are about **14 million** new HPV infections each year in the United States.

About **50%** of new infections are in **15- to 24-year-olds**.

For most people, HPV clears on its own. But for those who don’t clear the virus, it could cause certain precancers, cancers, and other diseases.

HPV often has no signs or symptoms, so it can be passed on without knowing it.
HPV can lead to certain diseases in males and females

**DISCUSSION TIP:** Remind parents that HPV-related diseases are not limited to cervical cancer. Emphasize that HPV can affect both males and females (genital warts and anal cancer).

**Explain the types of diseases that HPV can cause:**

Estimated annual HPV-related cancer and disease cases in the US caused by all types of HPV:

- **Cervical cancer:** ~12,800 cases
- **Anal cancer:** ~7,100 cases
- **Vulvar & vaginal cancers:** ~5,200 cases
- **Genital warts:** ~320,000 cases

*a Not all cervical precancers and lesions, or cases of vulvar, vaginal, and anal cancers, are caused by HPV. Approximately 30% of vulvar cancer cases, 70% to 75% of vaginal cancer cases, and 85% to 90% of anal cancer cases are HPV related.
What diseases are caused by HPV?

HPV can cause certain cancers and diseases later in life for males and females.

While there are many types of HPV, only certain types can cause the following:

- Anal Cancer
- Genital Warts
- Cervical Cancer
- Vulvar Cancer
- Vaginal Cancer

HPV=human papillomavirus.
Female HPV-related diseases

Cervical, vulvar, vaginal, and anal cancers

- Almost all cases of **cervical cancer** are caused by HPV.\(^{10}\) Cervical cancer is not hereditary.\(^{1}\)
  - When certain types of HPV don’t clear on their own, they can cause the development of abnormal cells in the cervical lining that may lead to cancer.\(^{2}\)
  - Every day, about 35 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer in the United States.\(^{4}\)

- **Vulvar cancer** most often occurs on the inner edges of the labia or the outer part of the female genital area.\(^{11}\)

- **Vaginal cancer** occurs in the woman’s birth canal.\(^{11}\)

- About 85% to 90% of **anal cancer** cases are caused by certain types of HPV.\(^{5}\)

Genital warts

- Genital warts are highly contagious. Even after treatment, genital warts can recur.\(^{9}\)
Female HPV-related cancers and diseases

- Cervical cancer
- Vulvar cancer
- Vaginal cancer
- Anal cancer
- Female genital warts

Almost all cases of cervical cancer are caused by HPV. Cervical cancer is not hereditary.

HPV = human papillomavirus.

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Male HPV diseases

**DISCUSSION TIP:** Remind parents that it’s important to understand that HPV can lead to certain cancers and diseases later in life.¹

There is no routine screening test to detect HPV infection in males. Since most HPV infections are asymptomatic, infected males can pass on the virus without knowing it.¹

**Anal cancer**

- About 85% to 90% of anal cancer cases are caused by certain types of HPV.⁵
- Anal cancer can occur in males of any sexual orientation. The risk of anal cancer increases with anal intercourse.¹²

**Genital warts**

- Genital warts are highly contagious. Even after treatment, genital warts can recur.⁹
Male HPV-related cancer and diseases

Anal cancer

Male genital warts

There is no routine screening test for HPV in males

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Protection starts with knowing the facts

Educating parents about the potential consequences of HPV is the first step in helping protect their children against certain HPV-related cancers and diseases later in life.¹³

**Important facts for parents to remember**

- HPV is a virus that can cause certain cancers and diseases in males and females later in life.²
- HPV affects both males and females and often has no symptoms.¹,²
- There are no routine screening tests to detect HPV infection in males.¹

**Recommendations from leading organizations**

Inform parents that the American Cancer Society (ACS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend routine HPV vaccination for both boys and girls at 11 or 12 years of age.¹⁴,¹⁵
3 key facts to remember about HPV

1. HPV is a virus that can cause certain cancers and diseases later in life.

2. HPV can affect males and females, often without symptoms.

3. There is no routine screening test for HPV in males.

Protection starts with education

Both the American Cancer Society (ACS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend routine HPV vaccination for boys and girls at 11 or 12 years of age.

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3 key facts to remember about HPV

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HPV is a virus that can cause certain cancers and diseases later in life

This tool can help you talk to parents about HPV and related diseases.

The spiral binding allows the user to fold the booklet in half to display the parent-facing page and read from the health care professional-facing page for each topic.

Parent-facing page

Includes medically relevant disease state information in a patient/parent-friendly format.

Health care professional-facing page

Includes discussion tips featuring key points to help facilitate an efficient dialogue with parents.

References: