AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 404
(A-18)

Introduced by: Medical Student Section

Subject: Emphasizing the Human Papillomavirus Vaccines as Anti-Cancer Prophylaxis for a Gender-Neutral Demographic

Referred to: Reference Committee D
(Shannon Kilgore, MD, Chair)

Whereas, About 14 million Americans are newly infected with human papillomavirus (HPV) each year;\(^1\) and

Whereas, Subclinical HPV infection may be as high as 40%, which can further exacerbate the spread of HPV as these asymptomatic individuals may unknowingly infect others with the virus;\(^1,2,3,4,5,6,7\) and

Whereas, Approximately 19,200 women and 11,600 men in the US are diagnosed with an HPV-caused cancer or dysplasia;\(^3,8,9,10\) and

Whereas, From 2008-2012, HPV-related cancers climbed to 39,000 and of these cases, 28,500 were preventable with the currently available 9-valent HPV vaccine;\(^3,5\) and

Whereas, Despite Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) supporting vaccination of boys and girls, US vaccination rates are still low at only 49.5% for girls and 37.5% for boys;\(^3,11\) and

Whereas, Data demonstrates that a primary reason for poor vaccination rates despite health care coverage and CDC support has been the lack of a strong recommendation by providers;\(^6,10,12,13\) and

\(^12\) Reiter PL, Gilkey MB, Brewer NT. HPV vaccination among adolescent males: Results from the National Immunization Survey-Teen. Vaccine. June 10, 2013; 31(26): 2816-2821. doi: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2013.04.010
Whereas, The association of HPV vaccination as anti-STI instead of anti-cancer has created public misconceptions, leading to low vaccination rates despite a recent cohort study revealing no association between HPV vaccination and sexual-activity-related outcomes;\(^4\) and

Whereas, Rates of HPV related cervical dysplasia have decreased in the age groups who had HPV vaccination available to them, while those in age groups beyond the recommended vaccination age have stayed stagnant;\(^5\) and

Whereas, Research shows that health care provider (HCP) recommendation correlates strongly with HPV vaccination in females, whilst existing structural barriers as well as perceived low cost-effectiveness has prevented HCP recommendations for males;\(^14,15\) and

Whereas, Head and neck cancer is the sixth most common cancer worldwide and its ever-increasing incidence is linked to HPV infection;\(^16\) and

Whereas, Current oropharyngeal cancer screening is underdeveloped and uncommon, contributing to the need for increased emphasis of the HPV vaccine as a preventative measure;\(^9\) and

Whereas, Oropharyngeal cancer is more common in males than females; men who received the HPV vaccine had increased levels of both circulating and oral HPV antibodies which may lead to a decrease in the incidence of oropharyngeal cancer;\(^17\) therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association acknowledge HPV vaccines as beneficial to all genders as anti-cancer and anti-STI (New HOD Policy); and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA support appropriate stakeholders to increase public awareness of HPV vaccines effectiveness against both HPV-related cancers and STIs. (New HOD Policy)

Fiscal note: not yet determined

Date received: 04/26/18

**RELEVANT AMA POLICY:**

HPV Vaccine and Cervical Cancer Prevention Worldwide H-440.872

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Inclusion in High School Education Curricula D-170.995

Insurance Coverage for HPV Vaccine D-440.955


