

To The Point

Gardasil HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) Program

The HPV school-based program has commenced in all Hunter New England high schools. Girls in Year 10, 11 and 12 will be offered HPV in 2007, and girls in Y7, 8, 9 and 10 will be offered HPV in 2008. Thereafter Y7 girls will be offered the vaccine.

A catch-up program will be implemented for 18-26 year-olds (non-high school students) via GP surgeries from July 2007. Details will be forwarded when available.

Product Information available at: 1 800 642 865

Consumer Medicine Information is available at: 1 800 642 865 or on their website at: <http://www.csl.com.au/Gardasil.asp>

Rotavirus Vaccine

NSW Health has advised that rotavirus vaccine will be offered free for infants born from 01 May 2007. The program will commence in July 2007 when these infants turn 2 months. You will be kept informed through your Division of General Practice.

Parents of infants born prior to May 2007 should be encouraged to self-fund this vaccine if they wish their infant protected against rotavirus. There will be no catch-up program as both Rotarix (2-dose regime) and Rota Teq (3 dose vaccine) are licensed for a specific age and must be completed by age 26 weeks and 32 weeks respectively.

Errors in Vaccine Administration

There have been reports that some GPs have inadvertently administered Infanrix-IPV (DTPa-IPV) to 2, 4 or 6 month-olds, when they should have administered Infanrix-hexa (DTPa-IPV,HBV,Hib). Please be sure to administer the correct vaccine as errors leave infants unprotected against the diseases for which vaccines were not administered and catch-up increases the number of jabs required.

Reminder Item!

All vaccines due should be given at the same visit

New NSW Health Policy Directive (PD2007_006)

The new PD 2007_006 pertains to screening and vaccination of Health Care Workers (staff at GP surgeries) and Health Care Students. Includes non-clinical staff. This PD is more prescriptive than previous versions. Students may be prevented from undertaking clinical placement if documented proof of immunisation is not provided.

Pre-vaccination screening is generally **NOT** recommended for any disease. However, individuals who were immunised for hepatitis B as a child **should** be screened for HBsAb; if no antibodies detected give 1 HBV booster dose & re-screen in 4 weeks. Document the 3 doses of HBV plus the booster dose.

Flu Season

One of the requirements of the PD2007_006 is that staff and students are immunised annually for 'flu. This protects them, their families and the most vulnerable in our community, their patients. Many of the most vulnerable; infants, the aged and the immuno-suppressed, may not respond well to flu vaccine, therefore it is essential that those with whom they come into contact, are also immunised.

Pregnant women should be offered flu vaccine, even in the first trimester since the benefits greatly outweigh any risks. Flu vaccine protects mum and foetus against prolonged fever, which has proven risks to both.