

If a parent, guardian, or patient themself is concerned about the HPV vaccination, listening is key to understanding the source of their concerns before addressing them. At the end of the conversation, health care providers should give a firm and clear recommendation for the HPV vaccine to help protect against serious diseases, including cancer, as they would with any other childhood vaccination.

The SHARE Approach

Share reasons why the HPV vaccine is right for the patient (e.g., immunization schedule).

Highlight positive experiences (personal or from practice) to reinforce vaccine benefits.

Address patient questions and concerns, such as side effects, safety, and effectiveness.

Remind patients that the HPV vaccine helps protect them from cancer later in life.

Explain the potential financial, health, and emotional costs of contracting a vaccinepreventable disease or cancer. Adolescents are **5x more likely** to receive the HPV vaccine with a provider recommendation.

What	+ How	=	Effective
you say	you say it		communication

Catching up on Missed Doses

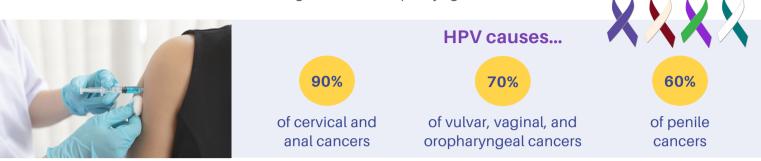
Even if the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the immunization schedule of patients under 26 years old, remind them it's not too late to start or complete the HPV vaccination series. *Annual wellness appointments are an opportune time to introduce the topic.*

How to Discuss HPV Vaccination Effectively

	AVOID	TRY
Approach	 Sticking to a scripted speech for all patients regardless of their background Making assumptions about a patient's values, motivations, or medical preferences Getting defensive if you disagree 	 Tailoring language for each patient, accounting for age, relevant cultural and religious considerations, etc. Asking open-ended questions to encourage dialogue
Body Language	 Crossing your arms Sitting with physical barriers (e.g., desk or computer) between you 	 Maintaining open posture (e.g., rest your hands on your lap) Sitting level and facing the person directly Making eye contact (if culturally appropriate)
Facial Expression and Tone	 Frowning, squinting, or making faces that convey a negative reaction Using a tone that may be perceived as cold, condescending, or judgmental 	 Maintaining a neutral or warm expression and a friendly tone Nodding in understanding
Listening	 Filling out forms or doing other work while the patient or parent is speaking Cutting the patient off mid-sentence Moving on if the patient doesn't speak up after a brief pause 	 Allowing time for the patient to share their perspectives Repeating back your understanding of their concerns before responding to them Providing ample opportunities for questions
Word Choice	 Using medical terms without defining or explaining their meaning Overusing medical jargon 	 Using plain, easy to understand language Checking often for patient understanding; having them reflect back what has been said

Know Your Numbers: HPV Vaccine Cheat Sheet

85% of people will get a human papillomavirus (HPV) infection in their lifetime. While most HPV infections go away on their own, some may persist and cause certain anogenital and oropharyngeal (throat) cancers.



The HPV Vaccine

The nonavalent HPV vaccine protects against 9 types of HPV, including the types (HPV 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52, and 58) that cause the majority of anogenital and oropharyngeal cancers.

The HPV vaccine must be taken BEFORE an individual is exposed (prophylactic) to the virus, so experts*encourage starting vaccination in childhood (as early as age 9) for both boys and girls to maximize effectiveness.

*The American Cancer Society, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the National HPV Vaccination Roundtable

When to Vaccinate

Age	Recommendation	Timing
11-14 years (as early as age 9)	2-dose series	Doses provided 6-12 months apart
15-26 years; immunocomprosmised 9-26 years	3-dose series	Doses provided at 0, 1-2, and 6 months
27-45 years	Shared decision-making, considering age and potential history of exposure	_

13 million

new cases of HPV occur each year in the United States

48,000

new cases of HPV-associated cancers occur each year in the United States

Over a decade of safety and monitoring data for the HPV vaccine shows that it has met safety criteria, with the potential to prevent **90%** of HPV-attributable cancers.

In 2021, **77%** of adolescents received at least 1 dose of the HPV vaccine and **62%** received the full series.

Vaccination schedule recommended by the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices

Further Reading

- American Academy of Pediatrics: <u>Adolescent Immunization Discussion Guides</u>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <u>A Guide to Active Listening</u> and <u>Talking to Parents about HPV Vaccine</u>
- UNICEF: Interpersonal Communication for Immunization

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