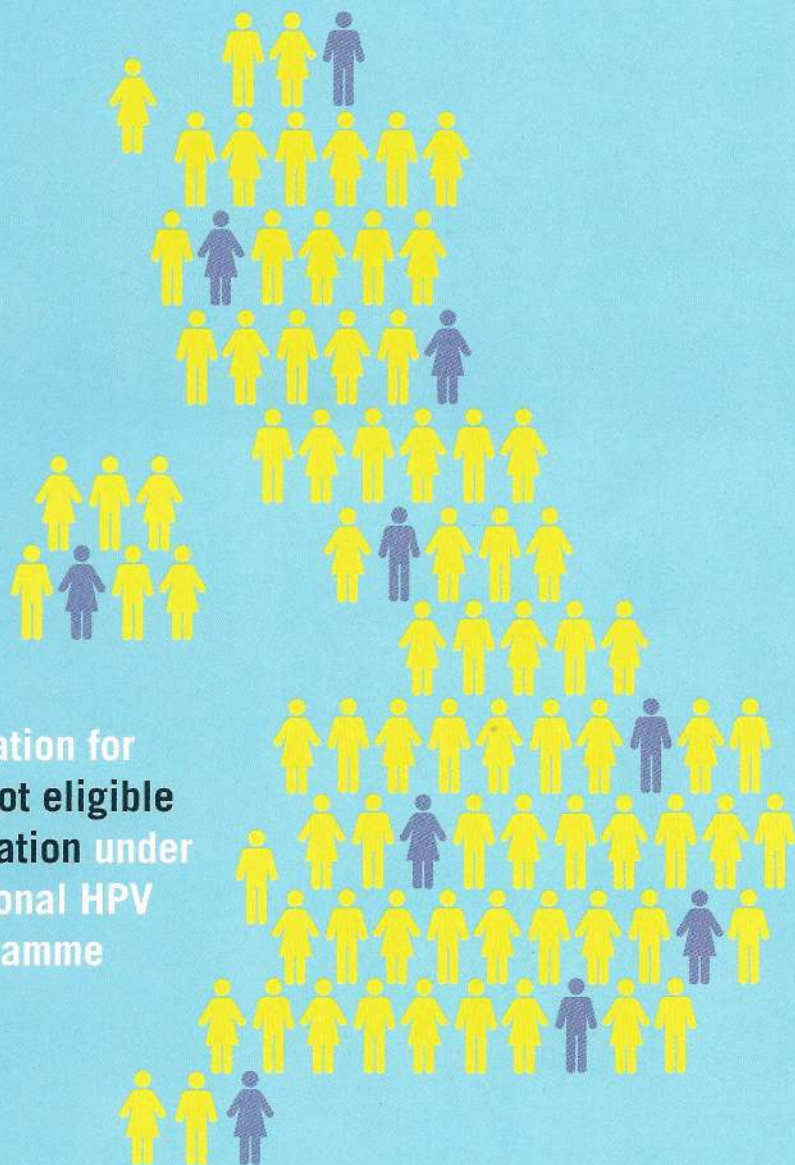


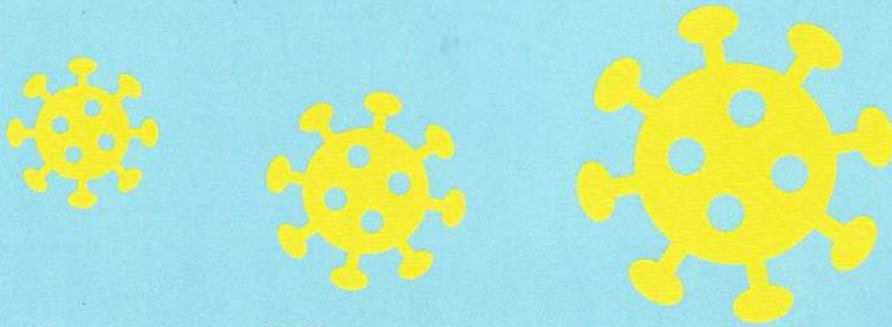
HPV vaccinations



Information for
anyone **not eligible**
for vaccination under
the national HPV
programme

The HPV virus

HPV stands for human papillomavirus. There are a number of different types of the HPV virus and different types can cause different diseases which affect both males and females. Some may cause cancer or pre-cancerous conditions in the cervix, anus, vulva or vagina. Others can cause genital warts.



How do you get HPV?

HPV is mainly passed on through sexual contact but can also be passed from mother to child during birth. HPV types that are associated with cervical, vulval, vaginal and anal cancers, and genital warts are usually passed from person to person by genital contact. This could be through sexual intercourse or intimate skin-to-skin contact, including oral sex.

Is HPV common?

HPV is a very common virus. Around 80% of sexually active people will be infected with HPV at some point in their lifetime. People infected with HPV may not know they have the infection as there are often no symptoms.

Common HPV-related diseases

For most people, HPV infection goes away naturally. If it stays for a while, infection could lead to cervical or anal cancer, pre-cancer in the cervix, anus, vulva or vagina, or genital warts. While HPV infection may lead to these types of cancer and pre-cancer, not all cases of anogenital cancer and pre-cancer are caused by HPV. HPV-related diseases don't just affect females; the virus also causes disease in males.

Cervical cancer

Cervical cancer develops in the cervix, the entrance to the womb at the top of the vagina. Every year, more than 520,000 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and more than 260,000 women die from the disease worldwide. It is the third most common cancer in women aged 25–49 in the UK, with 1,840 cases in 2013.

Anal cancer

Anal cancer is a type of cancer that begins in the anus. In the UK, around 1,200 people are diagnosed with anal cancer each year. In 2014, anal cancer caused 360 deaths. It occurs more often in women than men. In men, anal cancer is more common in those who have sex with men.

Pre-cancer in the cervix, anus, vulva or vagina

Pre-cancerous lesions (known as 'intraepithelial neoplasia') are not cancer and can disappear by themselves. However, they may develop into cancer over time. In the UK, around 3 women are diagnosed with vulval cancer every day and around 4 women are diagnosed with vaginal cancer every week. In 2014, vulval cancer caused 453 deaths and vaginal cancer caused 110 deaths.

HPV vaccinations

HPV vaccinations can help prevent infection from certain types of HPV.

Who can be vaccinated against HPV?

- In the UK, all girls in year 8 (aged 12–13 years) are offered free HPV vaccination at school through the national HPV programme.
- Free HPV vaccination is also offered as part of a catch-up programme in schools or GP surgeries to all girls up to the age of 18 who've not been previously vaccinated against HPV.
- Individuals (male and female) who are not eligible for the national programme may be able to receive HPV vaccination from a private practice depending on their age.
- Either two or three doses are needed depending on your age, gender and the schedule recommended by your healthcare professional.

What else can you do to be protected against HPV?

You can't be completely protected against HPV but, as well as getting the HPV vaccination, you can reduce your risk of getting an HPV infection by:

- Using condoms
- Limiting your number of sexual partners



In addition to the above, make sure you do the following to help detect any irregularities that may have been caused by an HPV infection:

- Be aware of any changes or unusual symptoms in your genital area
- Women to have cervical smear tests when appropriate

What should I do now?

If you or anyone you know...

- is not eligible for free HPV vaccination in schools
- would like to find out more about HPV or HPV vaccinations

...contact your private practice to find out about the prevention of HPV diseases.

Vaccination courses started with one HPV vaccine should be completed with the same vaccine.

Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in the package leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme at: www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.