Information for Health Care Providers about Adolescent Vaccines

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends four vaccines for adolescents to prevent:

- Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap)
- Meningococcal disease (MCV4)
- Human papillomavirus (HPV)
- Influenza

These recommendations are supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the Society of Adolescent Health and Medicine.

What can YOU do to ensure your patients get fully vaccinated?

- Strongly recommend adolescent vaccines to parents of your 11 through 18 year old patients. 
  Parents trust your opinion more than anyone else’s when it comes to immunizations. Studies consistently show that provider recommendation is the strongest predictor of vaccination.

- Use every opportunity to vaccinate your adolescent patients. Ask about vaccination status when they come in for sick visits and sports physicals.

- Patient reminder and recall systems such as automated postcards, phone calls and text messages are effective tools for increasing office visits.

- Educate parents about the diseases that can be prevented by adolescent vaccines. Parents may know very little about pertussis, meningococcal disease, or HPV.

- Implement standing orders policies so that patients can receive vaccines without a physician examination or individual physician order.

Direct parents who want more information on vaccines and vaccine-preventable diseases to visit the CDC website at http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/teens or to call 800-CDC-INFO.

Note about syncope: For all vaccines given during adolescence, syncope has been reported in both boys and girls. To avoid serious injury related to a syncopal episode, adolescents should always be sitting or lying down to receive vaccines, remain so for 15 minutes, AND be observed during this time.

Overview of Adolescent Vaccination Recommendations

- All 11 or 12 year olds should receive a single dose of Tdap vaccine if they have completed the recommended childhood DTP/DTaP vaccination series and have not received Tdap

- All 11 or 12 year olds should receive a single dose of meningococcal vaccine, with a booster dose at age 16 years

- All girls and boys 11 or 12 years old should receive a series of 3 doses of HPV vaccine

- All adolescents should receive a single dose of influenza vaccine every year

Refer to the current immunization schedule and footnotes for more information