



Gavin Newsom
Mayor

Mitchell H. Katz, MD
Director of Health

DATE: January 14, 2008
TO: DPH Physicians, Clinicians and Nurses
RE: **Minor consent for HPV immunization**

Human papilloma virus infection is the most common sexually transmitted disease in San Francisco and an important cause of genital warts, cervical and anal cancer.

The currently licensed HPV quadrivalent vaccine (Gardasil®) is highly effective at preventing HPV infection, genital warts and cervical disease. It is recommended for use in females age 9-26, and in particular girls 11 and 12 years of age.

In order to enhance the control of HPV infection and assure a high uptake of this potentially life saving vaccine, we are working to make this vaccine available throughout the DPH medical care system. In accordance with state law, a minor who is 12 years of age or older seeking reproductive and sexual health services has the right to consent to those services; an example is hepatitis B vaccination. Providers should follow the same minor consent protocols for HPV vaccination as they do for the management of other sexually transmitted diseases.

Currently, the quadrivalent HPV vaccine is available for those age < 19 years on the CHN/SFGH formulary and available to clinics and providers through the DPH Disease Prevention Unit. More information on the HPV quadrivalent vaccine may be available at Communicable Disease Prevention at 554-2830 or general information at www.cdc.gov/std/hpv.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Mitchell H. Katz in black ink.

MITCHELL H. KATZ, MD
Director of Health

Handwritten signature of Jeffrey D. Klausner in black ink.

JEFFREY D. KLAUSNER, MD, MPH
STD Controller

cc: Susan Fernyak, MD, MPH, Director, Communicable Disease Control Section