



## Defense Health Agency (DHA) Clinical Communities Speaker Series

### Children and Youth: Advanced Practices for the Pediatric Health Care Provider

#### HPV Vaccine: The Challenge with Compliance

##### Resource List

Nearly all sexually active people will get human papillomavirus (HPV) at some time in their life if they don't get the HPV vaccine. Although most HPV infections go away on their own without causing problems, HPV can cause genital warts, or cancer. Getting vaccinated against HPV can help prevent these health problems. Contrary to popular belief, the Centers for Disease Control released the [HPV and Men - Fact Sheet](#), detailing that men can get infected with HPV. This fact sheet details risks and prevention methods to prevent contracting and spreading the disease.

Adolescents are engaging in sexual activities at younger ages. With the increasing openness about intercourse, human papillomavirus infections are rising amongst this age group. Human papillomavirus immunization is an effective method to prevent cancer in both boys and girls, and is supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics. [Human Papillomavirus \(HPV\)](#) informs parents and young adults that young people can prevent HPV by initiating the HPV series as early as 11 years old. It also discusses the benefits of vaccinating prior to the age of 14 in reducing the rates of cervical pre-cancer and genital warts.

During the 2014 National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) Annual Conference, there was a poster presentation titled [Increasing Human Papillomavirus \(HPV\) Vaccination in Boys: Reducing Health Disparities through Advanced Pediatric Nursing Practice](#) that provided some strategies to increase vaccination initiation in young boys. This poster presentation covered the strong correlation to cancer that parents and guardians should be aware of prior to making the decision to vaccinate their young boys. Additional recommendations included information on how HPV is spread by skin to skin contact and studies show that HPV vaccination does not promote sexual promiscuity.

HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection and is a leading cause for cancer. According to studies in [Vaccination for human papillomavirus: Immunization practices in the US military](#), service members have higher incidence rates and lower vaccination rates compared to the national average. Although the military enforces and offers many recommended vaccinations, HPV vaccination rates remain low. An updated US military policy incorporate HPV recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and provide guidance on how to increase inoculation rates.



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