

Immunisation - one of the most important weapons for protecting individuals from serious diseases.

HPV Vaccines – The cervical cancer jab

Since September 2008 there has been a national programme to vaccinate girls aged 12-13 against human papilloma virus (HPV). There is also a three-year catch up campaign that will offer the HPV vaccine (also known as the cervical cancer jab) to 13-18 year old girls.

The programme is delivered largely through secondary schools, and consists of three injections that are given over a six-month period.

Human papilloma virus (HPV) is the name of a family of viruses that affect the skin and the moist membranes that line your body, such as those in your cervix, anus, mouth and throat. These membranes are called the mucosa. There are more than 100 different types of HPV viruses, with about 40 types affecting the genital area. These are classed as high risk and low risk.

Around 30 types of HPV are transmitted through sexual contact, including those that can cause cervical cancer and genital warts. Genital warts are the most common sexually transmitted infection (STI) in the UK. HPV infection is also linked to vaginal cancer and vulval cancer, although both are rare conditions.

At present, women who are 18 years of age or over are not routinely offered a vaccination against HPV.

Why should you consider Private Vaccinations at CCR and who should get Vaccinated?

Vaccinations on the NHS will be provided using the Cervarix HPV Vaccine. This only offers protection

against the HPV types 16 & 18 whereas CCR provides vaccinations using Gardasil offering protection against types 6, 11, 16 and 18. Gardasil also offers protection against genital warts.

GARDASIL has been shown in clinical trials to prevent the above diseases in adult women aged 16 to 26 years. The vaccine has also been shown to produce antibodies against HPV in children and adolescents aged 9 to 15 years. Gardasil is licensed for **girls and women from 9 to 26 years of age**. The vaccine is safe and effective in this age group.

Chicken Pox (Varicella) Vaccination.

The chickenpox vaccination is not a routine childhood vaccination. Varicella vaccinations are provided free on the NHS where there is a clinical need for vaccination to take place, for example, in healthy non-immune people who have contact with a person with a weakened immune system. This is to reduce the risk to the immunosuppressed person from chickenpox, which could lead to very serious complications.

You cannot get the vaccine free on the NHS if you simply want to prevent your child from catching chickenpox, however the vaccine is available through Private Clinics and if you would like to find out more please contact CCR on 029 2076 4611.

